Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر باللغة الانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

EU envoy discusses Mideast peace in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Europe is ready to play a role in promoting Arab-Israeli peace and in Lebanon's reconstruction, the European Union's (EU) envoy to the Middle East said Tuesday. Miguel Moratinos arrived in Beirut Tuesday on the final leg of a regional tour aimed at reviving stalled peace talks, which have been largely led by the United States since 1991. Mr. Moratinos met separately with Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Bouez. Speaking to reporters after arriving at Beirut airport from Jordan, Mr. Moratinos said he will hand Lebanese officials a document from the 15-nation EU aimed at restarting the peace process. He affirmed the EU's readiness to play "an effective and constructive role" in the negotiations and to help Lebanon rebuild from its 1975-90 civil war.

Gulf damage payouts to start in March

GENEVA (AFP) — The U.N. compensation committee welcomed the restarting of Iraqi oil exports and will be able to start reimbursing victims of the 1990 Gulf war from mid-March, a U.N. spokeswoman said here Tuesday."Finally we are able to provide relief to the Iraqi population and to the innocent victims of the (Iraqi) invasion. It has taken too long but as we say in Spanish, it is never too late when joy arrives," the executive secretary of the commission, Carlos Alzamora, was quoted as saying.The commission, set up in 1991 to handle claims, is entitled to take a third of the $2 billion Iraq is allowed in exports sales every six months under an "oil-for-food" deal.The commission hopes to receive its first funds from mid-February and to start compensating 56,000 people who are earmarked $160 million, spokeswoman Therese Gastaut said.

Volume 21 Number 6401 | AMMAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1996, RAJAB 30, 1417 | Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King receives UAE advisor

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received at Al Nadwa Palace Mana Saed Otaibeh, special advisor to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan. and discussed with him bilateral ties. Also discussed was the outcome of the King's recent visit to UAE.

'God help us,' says Hrawi of Albright

BEIRUT (AP) — President Elias Hrawi summed up fears of many in the Arab World about Madeleine Albright's appointment as secretary of state. "God protect us," he said Tuesday. Ms. Albright's vigorous defence of U.S. policies and actions while ambassador at the United Nations alienated many Arabs suspicious of Washington's intentions in the region. Her blunt language with Iraq led to a perception that she was insensitive. "Albright's appointment is a serious matter. God protect us." Mr. Hrawi was quoted as saying by Milhem Karam, chief of the Lebanese reporters' syndicate."It remains to be seen if she urges Israel to move forward in the peace process," the president was quoted as saying. President Bill clinton named Ms. Albright to the cabinet last week. Foreign Minister Faris Bouez has said that he did not expect the additions to the Clinton administration to alter U.S. policy. But he warned that a change could undermine Washington's role as a broker in the U.S.-sponsored Mideast negotiations.

Likud wants polygraph tests for security officers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The chairman of the Israeli parliament's defence committee proposed Tuesday that security service personnel be forced to take regular lie detector tests to stop constant press leaks. "To stop leaks of secret dossiers, senior army officers and security service chiefs should take lie detector tests at regular intervals," Uzi Landau, a deputy in Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud Party, told Israel Radio. Mr. Landau recently accused senior security service and army officials appointed by the previous government of supporting the opposition Labour Party. Labour Deputy Ori Or, a former deputy defence minister, dismissed Mr. Landau's proposal as "stupid."

Hamas dominates Al Najah election

NABLUS (AFP) — For the second year running, candidates affiliated with the Hamas movement won student elections at the West Bank's biggest university on Tuesday, election organisers said. The student council vote at Al Najah University saw the Hamas-linked Islamic faction win 39 seats. compared to 36 for a coalition of candidates affiliated to Yasser Arafat's Fateh movement, student officials said. The remaining spots on the 81-member council went to members of two factions opposed to Mr. Arafat's peace accords with Israel, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) which won four seats and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) with two. Student leaders said the Islamic Faction and PFLP would join forces to control the council as they had following elections last year.

Israel authorises Jewish building in Ras Al Amud

Palestinians warn of dangerous consequences

Netanyahu rejects Musa role in Hebron talks

Netanyahu fears Palestinian state will lead to move by Galilee Arabs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli planning commission on Tuesday approved the building of 132 housing units for Jews in the heart of an Arab East Jerusalem neighbourhood in a move bound to infuriate Palestinians.

In other Palestinian-Israeli developments on Tuesday:

— Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu was said to have turned down an Egyptian proposal that Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa try to narrow Israeli-Palestinian differences in the peace process.

— Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) were reported to have agreed to renew the mandate for another month the mandate of unarmed Norwegian observers in Hebron.

— Israeli soldiers prevented Palestinian protesters, including Agriculture Minister Abdul Jawad Saleh, from blocking Jewish settlers bulldozing a

(Continued on page 7)

PRIME MINISTER Benyamin Netanyahu is vehement in his opposition to the formal creation of a Palestinian state because he fears northern Israel's Arab population could then demand their own independence, it was reported Tuesday.

"We have to limit the Palestinians' aspirations for self-determination," Mr. Netanyahu was quoted by the independent newspaper Haaretz as telling an unidentified European diplomat.

Full Palestinian independence "would be dangerous for the international community which at a later stage could be confronted with similar demands from the Arabs in Galilee," he said, referring to the northern Israeli region where many Arab Israelis live.

Arab Israelis represent about one million of Israel's total population of 5.5 million.

Mr. Netanyahu has often stated that his vision of the final status for the Palestinians is broad autonomy short of independence — an entity without the right to form a full standing army, enter into defence pacts with third countries or have full control over water resources or airspace.

Under the 1995 interim self-rule accords between Israel and the Palestinians, negotiations on a permanent settlement for the territories are due to be completed by May 1999.

The talks began symbolically in May under Israel's previous Labour government but have not yet been resumed by Netanyahu's right-wing administration which came to office in June.

The prime minister told his cabinet on Friday that he hoped the so-called final status talks would resume within weeks and he promised to present his ideas on the subject to the ministers before the negotiations begin.

Palestinian agriculture Minister Abdul Jawad Saleh is being pushed back by an Israeli soldier during a demonstration against land confiscation in the Jordan Valley on Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Saddam opens oil taps, but technical hitch delays flow

BAGHDAD (AFP) — President Saddam Hussein turned on the taps to send oil flowing through a pipeline to Turkey on Tuesday, but Turkish officials said a power failure delayed the start of Iraq's first crude exports in six years.

President Saddam, wearing an olive-drab army uniform, turned on the taps at a pumping station in the northern town of Kirkuk at 11:25 a.m. (0825 GMT) to start Iraqi oil flowing abroad for the first time since Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Crowds welcomed his arrival in Kirkuk, slaughtering sheep and playing patriotic songs.

A Turkish oil official, however, said that because of a power failure at the pumping station in Kirkuk, Iraqi crude had not yet begun to flow through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline.

"The electrical failure is continuing in Iraq and I don't think that the oil flow will start today," said Fatih Sen, regional director of the state-run Turkish pipeline company Botas.

"Correction of the failure totally depends on the Iraqis," Mr. Sen said in the Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik, the pipeline's endpoint. "We are constantly in contact with them, but there is nothing we can do on our end."

An official with Saybolt, a Dutch company charged by the United Nations with monitoring Iraq's oil exports under the U.N. "oil-for-food" deal, confirmed that Iraqi crude had not yet begun flowing.

The Rotterdam-based official who requested anonymity said the oil might start moving "tonight or tomorrow."

Under the oil-for-food deal, Iraq is allowed to export $2 billion of oil every six months — or between 500,000 to 550,000 barrels per day (bpd) — to pay for much-needed food and medicine.

One-third of the proceeds, however, will go toward defraying U.N. costs and a committee to compensate victims of the invasion.

Anatolia quoted Turkish officials as saying that 300,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) were expected to flow through the pipeline for the first few days and the amount would gradually increase to 440,000 bpd.

Iraqi Oil Minister Amer Rasheed told reporters earlier in Kirkuk that Iraq would export 650,000 barrels of crude on Tuesday through the pipeline to the Yumurtalik terminal.

Exports using tankers in the Gulf terminal of Mina Al Bakr, southern Iraq, would resume on Friday or Saturday, he added.

Mr. Rasheed said that two contracts with international firms for the purchase of Iraqi crude were forwarded to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali on Monday.

He did not identify the firms involved but Turkish newspapers said that ELF of France was to receive one of the first shipments.

In Ankara, the state-run Turkish Petroleum Refineries Co. (Tupras) announced that Turkey would buy 3.6 million tonnes of Iraqi oil a year in what it said was the first deal signed by the Iraqi

(Continued on page 7)

Hebron accord not an end in itself but one of many requirements for peace — Crown Prince

Moroccan academy convenes annual session in Amman

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Palestinian-Israeli agreement on Israeli redeployment in Hebron is only the first of many steps which need to be taken to save the Mideast peace process, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday.

Peace can only be achieved through a comprehensive solution to other "several complicated issues hindering any progress in the march towards peace," such as the final status of Jerusalem, the refugee problem, the resumption of negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and solution to water scarcity in the region, he said.

Pointing out that "comprehensiveness of peace is an indicator for the success or the failure of the peace process itself," the Crown Prince called for the establishment of Jerusalem, "cradle of the three Abrahamic monotheistic religions," as capital of an independent Palestinian state.

Speaking at the opening session of an international conference — enigmatically entitled "And What If the Peace Process Fails?" — the Crown Prince said that "we should tackle the issue of Jerusalem without being influenced by Jewish extremists and Israeli politicians who make use of this issue for their own benefit."

Addressing a prominent audience of more than 70 academics and politicians from all over the world convened in Amman for the autumn session of the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco (AKM), the Crown Prince, himself an AKM member, said "peace is a decision," and not only hope for something to come about.

The three-day symposium, organised by the AKM and hosted by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research Al al Bait Foundation, is being held in Amman upon the invitation of Prince Hassan and with the endorsement of King Hassan II of Morocco.

Addressing the opening session of the conference, AKM Permanent Secretary Abdul Latif Barbish called on the guarantors of the peace process and the international community to "take full responsibility" and give a decisive push forward to the peace process.

"The signing of the Oslo

(Continued on page 7)

Man hanged for murder; 2 others given death penalty

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 26-year-old man convicted of murder was hanged at Swaqa prison south of Amman at dawn Tuesday.

Omar Ahmad Mohammad Abu Shuaib was the eighth person to be executed in the Kingdom this year.

An official who attended the hanging said Abu Shuaib was pronounced dead in 15 minutes.

The official said the man expressed regret over the crime he committed and asked his brothers to take care of his parents.

Abu Shuaib was sentenced to death by the Amman Criminal Court in May 1995 for the murder of his would be mother-in-law Subheih Amin Majdalawi, 65, in her Jabal Jofeh apartment on April 10, 1995.

According to court documents, Abu Shuaib, who confessed to committing the murder, was engaged to the victims' daughter, Rand.

On the morning of the incident, Abu Shuaib travelled from Zarqa, where he resided, to Amman and monitored her house until his fiancée left the house.

The convict then entered the house, went to the victim's room and stabbed her three times in the chest while she slept, then fled the scene.

(Continued on page 7)

Muasher begins Israel visit with 'clear' message

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information Marwan Muasher on Tuesday began a three-day visit to Israel during which he will meet Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu and deliver a message from Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Dr. Muasher will also meet with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, Minister of Defence Yitzhak Mordechai and leaders of opposition parties. His talks with the Israelis will focus on means to end the deadlock in the peace process, advance the peace negotiations on the Israeli-Palestinian track and promote relations between Jordan and Israel.

"My message will be extremely clear, that Jordan does not accept the deadlock in the peace process and wants to see Israel respect its commitments in all areas" of the Oslo peace accords. Dr. Muasher told reporters on his departure from Amman.

Dr. Muasher said he would also reaffirm Jordan's "opposition to Israel's settlement policy which not only violates the peace process and Palestinian rights but represents a direct threat to the security and stability of Jordan."

Dr. Muasher, who served as Jordan's first ambassador to Israel after the two

(Continued on page 7)

Separating executive and legislative powers — the legal aspects

By Farida Salfiti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Eight years after the reintroduction of parliamentary life, Jordan is exploring the viability of introducing a new system under which members of Parliament will not be included in the government.

Though the debate seems to have focused on the political dimensions of introducing the new system, two other issues that have forced themselves on the discussions are the legal and constitutional aspects and the experience of other nations in separating the executive and legislative branches of government.

The Constitution neither requires nor bans the participation of parliamentarians in the government. Accordingly, it is legally sanctioned to form the government from outside or inside Parliament.

But since 1989, when parliamentary elections were held for the first time in 20 years, members of both houses of Parliament have joined all but one of the six governments that took office thereafter.

The tradition has thus been to include deputies in the Cabinet, often out of the need to ensure a majority vote of confidence without which governments cannot serve. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the only prime minister not to include deputies in his government since 1989, cited the need for a strong mandate from the House as a reason for his decision to reshuffle his government and bring in deputies prior to the signing of the peace treaty with Israel in 1994.

Changing the tradition of including deputies in the government could be the way through which the new system would be introduced. Amending the Constitution could be the other option.

But introducing the new system through practice appears to be the more likely option in the event of His Majesty the King opting for separating the legislative and the executive.

Many observers say that amending the Constitution, unchanged since 1974, remains a taboo, particularly at such an early stage in the democratic experiment. They say that neither the King nor the majority of the body politic favours amending the Constitution now because that might set a precedent which could be cited for demanding other constitutional changes that the regime does not want introduced.

Accordingly, the change in the system could be introduced by the King, who heads the three branches of government, through instructing the prime minister-designate to form a government from outside Parliament.

Citing the experiment of Mr. Majali whose government did not include deputies before it was

NEWS ANALYSIS

reshuffled, observers say it would be possible for governments to win a vote of confidence from the House even if its members are not represented in them.

The wish of the King not to bring parliamentarians into government could help the prime minister in winning a parliamentary mandate due to the respect he enjoys among parliamentarians.

Excluding parliamentarians from government will not be a violation of the Constitution, which gives the King the right to choose the prime minister who in turn must win the confidence of the Lower House of Parliament.

But as the country ponders the best way of continuing its democratic experiment, it has no ready models to follow from more established democracies. Their experiences are as varied as their political environments and particularities.

In the United States, for example, the constitution, drafted in 1787, clearly separates the powers, and stresses the need for balance amongst the three authorities. The president is elected by the people, and ministers are appointed by the president and are accountable to him. Ministers cannot be lawmakers.

In Britain, the government is formed by the party that gains a majority in parliament. In this case, parliamentarians form the executive. The head of the party that wins a majority

(Continued on page 7)

Israelis barricade Hebron University

HEBRON (Agencies) — Israeli security forces barricaded Hebron University on Tuesday, scuffling with students who tried to break into the West Bank campus in defiance of an Israeli closure order in effect since March, witnesses said.

They said 1,500 students, angry at an Israeli denial that it had agreed to reopen the univerity after a standoff on Monday, gathered near the campus and some tried to break in. But they were stopped by Israeli jeeps and troops who ringed the campus in the early morning.

"The Israelis have reneged on their commitment to reopen the university," said Diyab Al Sharabati, a Hebron city leader.

"They tricked us," said Ahmad Tmaizi, a first-year student. "We want to study."

Witnesses said pushing and shoving broke out between students and soldiers but no one was hurt. Soldiers briefly detained one student.

Palestinians said many of the students later left the compound but that tensions remained high as other youth staged a sit-in near the campus.

The Israeli army said it was checking the incident.

About 300 students and faculty members broke into the Hebron University campus on Monday vowing to resume studies suspended since the Jewish state closed it in March following a spate of suicide bombings that killed 59 people in Israel.

The standoff with Israeli troops ended when members of the Palestinian legislative council negotiated a deal under which they said Israel agreed to immediately open the campus of another technical college in the city and to discuss arrangements for reopening the university.

But an Israeli army official said no deal was reached and a closure order on the university remained in effect.

The students are trying to have a normal life — to go to the library and go to the lab," said university spokesman Nabil Abu Sneid. "This is all that we want."

Talks on the handover are currently stuck over Israeli demands to change the original agreement to provide more security for about 420 Jewish settlers who live and study in Hebron amidst more than 120,000 Palestinians.

Israel agreed to hand over about 80 per cent of Hebron to Palestinian self-rule under a deal signed last year but the long-overdue redeployment has yet to take place.

Students sit outside the entrance to Hebron University as an Israeli soldier keeps watch after the army barricades the building on Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Israel accuses PNA of 'incitement'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government issued a sharp protest Tuesday over repeated attacks against Israel and Israeli leaders in press releases put out by the Palestinian National Authority's Information Ministry.

A statement issued by the government press office accused the Ramallah-based ministry of violating terms of the 1995 Oslo self-rule agreement which require both sides to "abstain from incitement, including hostile propaganda (and) take legal measures to prevent such incitement by organisations, groups or individuals within their jurisdiction."

It quoted several excerpts from recent ministry statements published in English which refer to the "racist right-wing government" of Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu that came to power in June.

The ministry was quoted as describing the establishment of Israel as "the conquer (sic) of the Palestinian land in 1948" and "when the Jews invaded the coastal areas."

The government complained in particular about personal attacks by the ministry against Mr. Netanyahu, who was compared in one release to Bosnian Serb leader and indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic since "both ordered their respective armies to kill civilians."

It also said the ministry had issued veiled threats of violence prior to unprecedented clashes in late September between Israeli troops and Palestinian police and civilian protestors which left 86 people dead.

Days before the violence, one ministry release called on "the Palestinian masses to firmly confront" Israeli settlement policies in the territories "which will inevitably generate more violence."

The Ramallah-based information office is headed by Information and Culture Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo, an outspoken former leader of the left-wing Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

In another brewing dispute, PNA officials meanwhile rejected Israeli anger over a PNA permit for the Islamic Resistance Movment, Hamas, to hold a rally (see page 12).

4 Filipinos arrested for murder of U.S. couple

RIYADH (AP) — Four Filipinos are under arrest for questioning in the murder of an American couple in Riyadh, Philippines embassy officials said Tuesday. Suspected assailant Bernie Morante and colleagues Faustino Comadizo, Serafin Navarro and Apolonio Menez were arrested at the airport Sunday night by Saudi police, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Morante was booked on a flight to the Philippines and his three colleagues were seeing him off, officials said. All four men held unspecified jobs at King Khaled international airport.

Qatar emir visits Rome to meet father he ousted

DOHA (R) — Qatar's emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani left for Rome on Tuesday for a meeting with his father, the first since he ousted him in a bloodless coup last year, officials said.

Sheikh Hamad would spend one day in Rome then head for Paris and London on private visits, they said.

"It is a reconciliation meeting to pave the way for the return of Sheikh Khalifa and his associates," one said.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Ben Jabr Al Thani, who accompanied the emir to Rome, told a news conference on Monday that Sheikh Hamad, 47, would have lunch with his father, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, 66.

The officials said the former emir — who has been in self-imposed exile since his June 1995 ouster — would not be returning home immediately.

They said discussions continued on whether about 200 of his followers — who Qatar has accused of taking part in a foiled coup plot in February — would be allowed to return as well.

"There is also the issue of about 100 of the former emir's followers detained over the plot," one diplomat said.

The former emir had denied any involvement in the plot.

Qatar said in February it had arrested 100 people in connection with an anti-government plot involving former bodyguards loyal to Sheikh Khalifa.

Sheikh Hamad earlier this month said he had had several telephone conversations with his father. The son has not publicly said why he ousted his father last year.

Qatari officials had said the former emir was expected to return following an agreement over billions of dollars missing from state coffers since his ouster. Unofficial estimates put the sum he controlled between $3 billion and $7 billion.

Iran criticises GCC statement on its military build in Gulf

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran said Tuesday that its Gulf Arab neighbours swallowed the U.S. line by accusing the Islamic republic at their Doha summit of embarking on a military buildup in the region.

Such accusations amount to "a positive message for the United States and a fundamental obstacle to efforts to build an independent regional cooperation," state-run Tehran Radio said.

The daily Iran News, which is close to the foreign ministry, said the charges levelled against Tehran by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were at the dictate of the United States and worked against the region's interests.

The GCC on Monday accused Iran of a dangerous military buildup. It expressed "strong fears over Iran's deployment of surface-to-surface missiles in the Gulf, including on three United Arab Emirates (UAE) islands, which amounts to a direct threat to (Gulf) states..."

The Gulf Arabs regretted that Iran was going beyond its "legitimate needs" to arm itself heavily and acquire weapons of mass destruction.

They also supported the UAE's call on Tehran to negotiate a settlement to the dispute over the three island – Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa – which Iran claims as its territory.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish army expels scores of Islamist officers

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's highest military body Tuesday expelled scores of Islamic fundamentalist officers from the armed forces, sources said. "The Supreme Military Council has decided to cut the links of 33 officers and 36 non-commissioned officers with the armed forces for reasons of discipline and morality," the Turkish general staff said in a statement. Reliable sources said many of the men concerned were expelled from the army due to their Islamic fundamentalist connections. Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan has approved the council ruling on their expulsion.

Israel hospital patient runs amok

BEERSHEBA (AFP) — A deranged patient at Beersheba hospital killed an elderly woman by unplugging her life support system and attacked two other patients before being stopped by orderlies, officials said Tuesday. Esther Attias, 75, died after a 33-year-old man ripped away her life support equipment in an unexplained outburst of fury late Monday night in the Soroka Hospital's neurology department, officials at the facility said. The man, whose identity was not given, then turned on two other patients in the ward but was grabbed by hospital personnel called to the room by a terrified visitor. "I tried to stop him but couldn't, his whole body was trembling, it was terrible," Idan Harel, 19, said on Israel Radio after the incident. "I called for help and a team of orderlies arrived and were able to grab the man," said Harel, who had been visiting a relative in the ward at the time. Police and the Soroka Hospital administration launched investigations into the incident and into how the deranged man was able to roam around the hospital.

Egypt's Nobel laureate marks 85th birthday

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's Nobel Prize-winning author Naguib Mahfouz marked his 85th birthday here Tuesday away from the limelight, turning down several invitations to ceremonies paying tribute to his work. "I turned down all the invitations to official ceremonies. I cannot attend them because I suffer from poor hearing and eyesight," Mr. Mahfouz, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988, told AFP. Mr. Mahfouz, who was stabbed and badly wounded in a Muslim militant attack in Cairo in October 1994 amid charges from fundamentalists that his work harms Islam, said he did not "deserve" all the honours bestowed on him.Ever since the attack he has been unable to write and now his only "wish" is to take up writing again. Tributes poured in from several quarters for Mr. Mahfouz, who said he was moved by the recognition of his work.

7 injured at Lebanese University

BEIRUT (AFP) — Three students and four policemen were injured on Tuesday during a second day of clashes at the Lebanese University here between supporters of the rival Shiite Muslim groups Amal and Hizbollah, police said. Lebanese University law students came to blows over differences in the name to give to a prayer hall at the law faculty, police said. Windows in the hall were broken along with the windshield of a police vehicle, witnesses said. Supporters of the pro-Syrian Amal Movement want to name the prayer hall "prayer hall of the Amal martyrs" while the backers of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah want to honour the "martyrs of the Islamic Resistance." The police intervened on Monday after 10 students were injured in clashes between students armed with bottles and stones.

Britain launches new probe of Gulf war syndrome

LONDON (AFP) — Britain, under growing pressure from its Gulf war soldiers, on Tuesday launched a double-barrel three-year study into the causes and effects of the ailment known as Gulf war syndrome.

At the same time, the government acknowledged that use of suspect chemical pesticides in the Gulf may have been wider than originally thought, and said it would investigate why ministers were given erroneous information.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames told the House of Commons the research, ordered on advice from the medical research council, would cost the ministry of defence 1.3 million pounds ($2 million).

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

The American University of the Jordan is a
NON-PROFIT AMERICAN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING
Chartered in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, USA. It will be fully accredited in the United States of America and intends to establish its campus in Jordan.

The American University of the Jordan admits students of any race, color, gender, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the university. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 ..... The Muppet Show
14:30 .....Circus
15:00 .....Jeux — Pyramide
15:30 .....Serie — Les Compagnons de L'Adventure
16:00 Doc. — Earth Revealed
16:30 .....Blizzard Island
17:00 .....News Flash
17:02.....The Adventures and Kelly
18:00 .....Ushuaia
19:00 .....Le Journal
19:15 .Magazine — Sports Et Musique
19:30.....News Headlines
19:35 .....Bakersfield P.D.
20:00 .....Superstars of Action
20:30 .....Challenges
21:10 .....NBA Basketbal
22:00.....News in English
22:25 .....Bugs
23:15 .....Hart to Hart
23:59 Comedy — Who's The Boss?

PRAYER TIMES

04:58.....Fajr
06:20 .....(Sunrise)Duha
11:28 .....Dhuhr
14:13.....'Asr
16:37.....Maghreb
17:59.....'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 827126
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Temperatuurs are expected to rise slightly with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 05/15
Aqaba 11/24
Deserts.....04/17
Jordan Valley 10/23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 22 Humidity readings: Amman 72 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Bassam Karadsheh ..759200
Dr. Ramzi Mazzawi ..894788
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad . . .846070
Dr. Salman Daboubi ..776751
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy ...890280
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy ..636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'amneh..250080
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi 989601
Khalifeh pharmacy ...985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints.....897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Reparis.....623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen777101/3
Al-Bashir, ...775111/26
Army, Marka.....891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital.....674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights

08:35 .....Jeddah (RJ)
08:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
16:45 .....Istanbul (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:25 ..Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
17:45 .....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:05 ...Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:10 .....Berlin, London (RJ)
18:45 .....Paris, Brussels (RJ)
18:55 .....Rome (RJ)
23:10 .....Beirut (RJ)
00:10 .....Cairo (RJ)
03:55 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
04:50 Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
05:20 .....Sanaa (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

09:30 .....Cairo (MS)
10:00 ....Sanaa, Hudaidah (IY)
10:30 .....Jeddah (SV)
12:35 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
12:40 .....Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:30 .....Tunis (TU)
15:05 .....Vienna (OS)
15:45.....Algiers (AH)
20:10.....Beirut (ME)
21:00 ....Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:40 .....Tel Aviv (LY)
22:20 .....Larnaca (CY)
22:45 .....Athens, Beirut (OA)
23:10 .....Istanbul (TK)
23:15 .....Amsterdam (KL)
01:55 .....London (BA)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:20..... Aqaba (RW)
18:55 .....Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

08:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
10:30 .....Rome (RJ)
10:40 .....Berlin, London (RJ)
11:10 .....Istanbul (RJ)
11:25 .....Casablanca (RJ)
19:30 .....Colombo (RJ)
19:35 .....Beirut (RJ)
20:00 .....Bombay (RJ)
20:05 ...Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
20:10 .....Cairo (RJ)
20:30 .....New Delhi (RJ)
21:00 ....Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:15 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:00 .....Sanaa (add) (RJ)
01:40 .....Sanaa (RJ)
05:30 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

07:45 .....Beirut (ME)
10:20 .....Cairo (MS)
11:00 ..Hudaidah, Sanaa (IY)
12:00 .....Jeddah (SV)
13:30 .Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:50 .....Beirut, Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
14:30 .....Tunis (TU)
15:50 .....Vienna (OS)
16:30 .....Shariqah (AH)
22:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)
23:10 .....Larnaca (CY)
23:55 ...Damascus, Paris (AF)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 .....Marka (RW)
20:50 .....Aqaba (RW)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/500
Banana	550/550
Banana (imported)	850/600
Cabbage	80/50
Carrot	270/150
Cauliflower	120/80
Cucumber (large)	100/80
Cucumber (small)	230/150
Eggplant	160/80
Garlic	750/550
Grapes	550/350
Grape fruit	160/100
Lemon	390/200
Marrow (large)	80/40
Marrow (small)	140/100
Onion (green)	180/120
Onion (dry)	170/80
Orange	580/400
Pepper (hot)	280/150
Pepper (sweet)	260/150
Potato	290/170
Spinach	140/90
String Bean	400/350
Tomato	150/100

Speaker, activists study legislative changes to ensure equal rights

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Saad Hayel Srour, Tuesday urged women activists to forward to Parliament a proposal for new legislation or amendments to existing laws concerning women.

"Hopefully your recommendations will help us in Parliament to accelerate efforts in accomplishing any legalities to ensure women their legal rights," Mr. Srour told participants in a workshop entitled "Women in Penal Legislation."

Mr. Srour stressed that women have proven themselves efficient through their participation in all sectors of society and that demands to participate effectively in public life were justified.

"Women, themselves, should exert efforts to convince decision-makers of their points of view, of their issues and concerns and of the obstacles which hinder their advancement in society," he added.

Moreover, Mr. Srour praised the role of the Jordanian Women's Union's (JWU) in organising the event and he expressed his hope that all other institutes would unite in their efforts to enhance women's social, economic and legal status.

President of the JWU Asma Khader also addressed participants at the opening ceremony and delineated several articles in the penal and civil laws, describing them as "antiquated and biased towards men."

"The penal code, implemented in 1951, is outdated and needs to be reviewed or changed, and many of the articles discriminate against women," Ms. Khader said, adding that decision makers should take into consideration the social and economical changes which have occurred since that time and set or amend the laws accordingly.

Two of the articles which women activists have been demanding to change, according to Ms. Khader, are the passport and citizenship laws.

If a married woman wishes to obtain a passport, she needs her husbands written approval, she said.

In addition, Ms. Khader affirmed, the JWU has demanded amendments to the citizenship law in order to allow non-Jordanian men who marry Jordanian women the right to obtain Jordanian citizenship.

The children of a non-Jordanian father married to a Jordanian women legally retain their father's original citizenship.

On the other hand, a non-Jordanian woman, married to a Jordanian man are entitled to full rights, along with her children, in obtaining Jordanian citizenship.

"We have received several promises and assurances from the prime minister and other top officials that the government will look into our demands and try to find solutions, but so far nothing has changed," Ms. Khader, an attorney, stated.

Attorney Noor Al Imam, JWU President Asma Khader and House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour Tuesday discuss effective routes to ensure women's legislative equality (Petra photo)

She stressed that such issues will not be considered by parliamentarians unless women themselves organise their efforts and form groups in order to achieve substantive legislative changes.

Furthermore, Ms. Khader said, Jordan needs to implement the United Nations December Declaration which calls for ending all forms of violence against women.

Jordan had also signed and approved of the U.N agreement which also called for ending all forms of discrimination and torture.

"Although Jordan signed and approved the declaration and the agreements, we still see discrimination practised against women in many forms," she added.

Lawyer Noor Al Imam, a member of the Legal Committee at the JWU highlighted the role of the committee saying that it works to raise women's awareness of their legal rights and that the organisation also calls for amending or annulling articles which are considered to discriminate against women.

"The Jordanian Constitution calls for equality between men and women, but unfortunately there are clear injustices and discrimination concerning the rights of women," Ms. Noor told the gathering.

Participants at the three-day workshop will present papers which will tackle the penal legislation, the role of the press in reporting on domestic violence cases, women's status in Jordanian prisons, the stereotyping and cultural beliefs and traditions which lead to so-called "honour crimes", forensic medicine's role murder discovery (i.e. if the family of a murdered woman claims that she committed suicide) and the Muslim and Christian religious position on such killings of women and how such biases could be changed.

Students injured in road accident are reported as in stable condition

AJLOUN (J.T.) — A total of 19 students, injured in a road accident Monday, have been reported as in a generally stable condition.

Health Minister Aref Bataineh Tuesday called on the Iman Government Hospital in Ajloun to check on the condition of the students from the Ajloun Vocational Secondary School For Girls.

The girls were leaving the school when a truck driver lost control of his vehicle and ran into the group of students, injuring 19, according to Hospital Director Mohammad Shatanawi.

He confirmed that one of the students remained in serious condition.

Mr. Shatanawi told the Jordan Times that three of the students were transferred to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid and the Jordan University Hospital in Amman as they required further, more specialised treatment.

One of the girls suffered a brain haemorrhage and the other two sustained leg fractures in the accident, he added.

The director said that four of the girls were discharged Monday after receiving treatment, while the rest will stay an additional two days at the hospital.

Police and Civil Defence officers blamed the accident on the driver's speeding on a downhill road when weather conditions impeded clear visibility.

Later Dr. Bataineh was briefed by the Ajloun health department director regarding community-based health services and developments on the expansion of the Iman Hospital which has amounted a total cost of JD 455,000.

The minister inspected the hospital, the new dialysis unit, emergency departments, the paediatrics section and the intensive care unit before visiting the Basma Hospital to inquire as to the condition of the two girls who were injured in Monday's accident.

Prime minister visits display of sophisticated military equipment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday visited a display of sophisticated equipment, light weapons and surveillance machinery for use by the military, police and customs and border guards as well as weapons which help law enforcement officers deal with hostage situations and implement anti-terrorist operations.

The exhibition was opened Monday in Amman with the participation of 70 firms from 20 countries.

The prime minister told the press that well-placed facilities given to business firms and the central geographical location of the Kingdom as well as its established reputation have helped to attract international exhibitions of various products.

Mr. Kabariti, who is also defence minister, was welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, commander of the Jordan Special Forces which organised the exhibition in conjunction with the U.K.-based Contingency and Operational Procurement Exhibition (COPEX).

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh also visited the display Tuesday, inspected the items and was briefed on their use.

Prince Abdullah had opened the exhibition, the 27th organised by COPEX which has been operative for the past 14 years.

Japan grants cooperative $74,576 to build cheese factory in Bani Hamideh

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan has granted $74,576 to Bani Hamideh Agricultural Coopertive Society for the construction of a cheese factory for rural inhabitants, a Japanese embassy statemem said Tuesday.

The grant contract was signed Tuesday by Abdul Halim Braizat, chairman of cooperative society and Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura.

The project is being supervised by the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation (JCO) in cooperaion with the Bani Hamideh Agricultural Cooperative Society with the aim of improving the living conditions of residents in the Bani Hamideh rural district, situated south of Madaba. According to the contract, Japan will contribute financially to support the construction of the factory.

The embassy said that the cheese factory will be designed for the daily production of 140 kilogrammes of jameed (dried yoghurt used in the making of Jordan's most traditional meal known as mensaf) and 100 kilogrammes of semneh (local animal ghee).

The dairy products will be produced from ewe's milk, the statement said.

It said the products will be sold in local markets, and part of the income from sales will be returned to breeders in Bani Hamideh.

In addition, the embassy said that the factory would provide more job opportunties to the women of Bani Hamideh.

This grant is provided within the framework of the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Projects (GAGP).

GAGP has been extended mainly to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutes, hospitals and local governments, with emphasis in such areas as primary health-care, poverty relief, basic job training, women in development, environment, primary education and assistance to the disabled.

Through the GAGP scheme, Japan has so far donated $1,448,600 to Jordan. The GAGP grants for FY 1996 (April 1996 - March 1997) to Jordan are expected to reach $700,000, including Tuesday's donation for the cheese factory.

Jordan, Tunisia discuss bilaterai economic, trade ties

SINGAPORE (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, who is currently in Singapore attending a meeting sponsored by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), held a meeting with his Tunisian counterpart to discuss economic and trade ties between Jordan and Tunisia.

Subsequent to the meeting, Mr. Abul Ragheb announced that he discussed prospects of creating a free-trade zone between the two countries and that this issue will be discussed by a joint committee in preparation for the Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Joint Committee meeting.

This meeting is due to convene in Amman next week under the co-chairmanship of the Jordanian and Tunisian prime ministers.

Mr. Abul Ragheb also met with his Algerian counterpart to discuss a free-trade agreement between the two countries and, according to Jordanian delegation sources, the discussion covered issues of common concern following up on talks held in Algiers, during Mr Kabariti's visit there last summer. He also met with his Saudi, Sudanese and Bahraini counterparts to review economic and trade ties.

The minister is scheduled to deliver Jordan's address tomorrow before delegates representing 127 nations.

The week-long trade meeting comes two years after the birth of the WTO which followed the conclusion of the Uruguay global trade talks within the context of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Police gather evidence in recent murder of Amman resident, believe theft to be motive

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Tuesday affirmed that they have gathered material evidence in last week's brutal murder of a 48-year-old man in the Hashmi Shamali district of Amman, an official source said.

"Police have gathered several items, including fingerprints, from the victim's car which are in the process of being analysed at the criminal lab," he said.

The deteriorating body of Mohammad Ahmad Maharmeh, a resident of the town of Sahab, south-east of Amman, was found with his hands and legs bound and his head crushed in a deserted apartment in Hashmi Shamali on Dec. 3.

The victim was reported missing by his family five days prior to the discovery of the body and police retrieved his abandoned car in the area.

According to the source, theft is believed to be the motive behind the murder.

A close relative of the victim informed the Jordan Times that Mr. Maharmeh owned a golden statue, reportedly worth more than JD 4 million, and that he had travelled to Israel in a bid to sell the statue.

"Mr. Maharmeh took a photo of his statues and travelled to Israel one week before his disappearance," the relative said.

The official source said that investigators suspect that Mr. Maharmeh had arranged a meeting with an unknown individual or individuals and "it is likely that he was abducted to the deserted apartment and killed."

Meanwhile, three people, including two children, were killed in two seperate accidents in Mafraq and the Jordan Valley, Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports said.

In the Deir Alaa' area in the Jordan Valley two brothers drowned in the King Abdullah Canal while they were on their way home from school, a CDD official said.

According to the official, Hamzeh Musa Abu Dieh, 12, drowned while attempting to save his younger brother, Khader, 8, who had slipped in the canal.

"The two were playing in the canal and Khader slipped in the water, his brother Hamzeh who did not know how to swim attempted to rescue him and drowned in the attempt," the CDD official explained.

He told the Jordan Times that it took CDD frogmen 20 minutes to pull the boys from the canal which measured three-metres in width and 180 centimetres deep.

"A small girl who witnessed the incident informed us 45 minutes after its occurrance and we were able to locate the bodies," the CDD official said.

The father of the victim who was present when the boys were pulled from the canal, was really sad and shocked from the whole scene, the official added.

In Mafraq, one person was killed and four more were seriously injured after inhaling poisonous gases while maintaining a cesspool in a paper factory in the town of Aum Jamal in Mafraq, CDD reports said.

Three of the five men were cleaning and maintaining the factory's cesspool, which was filled with industrial waste and suffocated of lack of oxygen.

"The cesspool was filled with poisonous gases and there wasn't sufficient oxygen and the men suffocated," a CDD official told the Jordan Times.

He added that the other employees were suffering from shock and rushed to hospital.

The deceased was identified by CDD reports as Atef Abdul Karim Massaid, 25. The other two employees who also suffered from lack of oxygen and are being treated at Mafraq Government Hospital are Ghassan Suleiman, 25, and Usama Mohammad, 19

'Jordan hopes to secure foreign markets for citrus' — minister

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — At the opening of an exhibition Tuesday of citrus fruits grown in the Jordan Valley, Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat said that local farmers are finding it difficult to market all their products because of the bumper crop resulting from the recent unseasonably warm weather.

For instance, he said, the Hisbeh (the central produce market in Amman) has been receiving 2,000 tonnes of tomatoes daily which have flooded the local market and caused a drop in prices.

Dr. Shneikat said that while exports of local agricultural products continue to the Gulf states, Lebanon and Eastern European countries, the government is continuously seeking new markets for its produce and is hoping negotiations on partnership with the European Union will bring about easier access to these markets.

Ministry of Agriculture officials said that the exhibition, which also displays farm equipment, aims among other things to strengthen cooperation between citrus fruit producers, the agricultural firms and the research centres which advise on modern methods to increase output.

Taking part in the three-day exhibit are several agricultural firms in the Jordan Valley, owners of agricultural nurseries and the Agriculture Department in Deir Alla as well as the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

Deputies from the Jordan Valley districts and local government officials along with farmers were present at the opening ceremony.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Scarlett" (pt. I) at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

* "Special show and sale of Christmas crafts at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Alaydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle (Tel. 644555), until Dec. 31.

LECTURES

*Seminar on "The Role of Political Parties in Deepening Jordan's Democratic Experiment" by Mr. Hakam Khair and Salam Al Nahhas at the Progressive Arab Baath Party headquarters at 6:00 p.m.

* Examples of Leading Jordanian Companies (banks, trading companies, insurance companies)" by Dr. Hanna Hattar at Goethe-Institut at 6:30 p.m.

* "The Earthquake Hazards in the Arab Region" by Dr. Najib Abu Karaki at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman 6:00 p.m.

American academic offers solutions to constitutional woes

By Christina Schlegl
Special to the Jordan Times

THE ARAB World is currently facing three basic problems which inhibit real democracy: contents of constitutional texts, constitutional interpretations and avoidance of constitutional mechanisms, Associate Dean at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University Nathan Brown, Monday stated at an American Embassy roundtable discussion.

Dr. Brown, who earned a Ph.D. in Middle East Studies from Princeton University, stated that he has been following constitutional developments and their implementation in many countries in the Arab World over the past years.

The meeting entitled "Judicial and Legal Guarantees for Human Rights" was attended by various representatives from the local media to discuss the status of democratic and constitutional rights in the Arab World, following a lecture by Dr. Brown.

In his opening address, he concentrated on democratic and constitutional development from within Europe, explaining that in the nineteenth century democracy and constitution were separated in order to limit popular rule.

An event, Dr. Brown continued, which witnessed significant change in the twentieth century when the executive authority's influence, interpreted as a threat to democracy, was substantially reduced.

"The interpretation of democracy is a parliamentary responsibility and not a judicial one," he continued, explaining that current constitutional texts in Europe were amended subsequent to World War II.

Elucidating the linkage between developments in the Western and the Arab World, Dr. Brown confirmed that Arab constitutional texts are based on their nineteenth century European counterparts, notably the Belgian constitution of 1830, which, as an example, had a direct influence on Egyptian legislature.

However, returning to the current era, he stated his opinion that a great part of the Arab World is mistaken to "operate without plausible constitutional interpretation."

"Theoretically and practically, the ministries and the government are responsible as heads of their respective states, which limits democracy," Dr. Brown said.

Citing an example of what he termed as restricted press freedom in some Arab countries, he stated that freedom of expression is in the hands of various and sundry parliaments and therefore under executive rule.

Although some Arab countries accepted portions of the judicial reviews on nineteenth century constitutional texts in Europe, others such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Libya and Sudan refrained from doing so, he said.

Acknowledging that constitutional councils or courts for the interpretation of same are quite common in Arab countries, Dr. Brown emphasised that "without an independent court, the constitution [is in danger of falling under] executive domination."

"[Many] Arab governments have found ways to avoid constitutional mechanisms [which ensure] judicial and legal guarantees," Dr. Brown said, citing the example of Kuwait, where the Ministry of Interior is given licence to expel any foreigner without proffering justification.

As an example, he referred to the military court in Egypt, which combines the so-called emergency law (introduced by British occupants during World War I) and the law of military courts.

He said that an accusation which dogs the Egyptian president is that of referring civilian cases to the military court "if the government wants quick results."

In a discussion following the lecture, one of the press participants asked if the speaker could offer a solution which might guarantee press freedom in the Arab World, especially in Jordan, as there is no constitutional court in the Kingdom.

Acknowledging that he is not very familiar with the Jordanian constitutional system, Dr. Brown formulated a general answer.

"Constitutional guarantees will be weak, as long as there are no independent constitutional courts," he responded.

As an approach to a possible solution, he offered two possibilities.

The first one is the Egyptian model of the supreme constitutional court, which annuls approximately 20 laws per annum.

Within this court, Dr. Brown said, judges are appointed from among their peers instead of being named by the government.

The second choice is the European model, where a variety of independent bodies (from the government, the parliament, the bar association and judges) represent the constitutional court.

Dr. Brown concluded the discussion with the call for the implementation of a strong and independent parliament and judiciaries in the Arab World in addition to strong constitutional interpretations to ensure judicial and legal guarantees for human rights.

Suu Kyi confined to her house as campuses remain closed

RANGOON (AFP) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi remained confined to her home Tuesday as students — whose classes were suspended for a second consecutive day — held protests across the city.

"The authorities have asked her not to leave the house. She must ask their permission to go outside, but she does not want to do this," a source from within the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's compound told AFP by telephone.

Entrance to her compound was restricted to only three senior executives from her National League for Democracy (NLD), which the junta accuses of instigating recent student demonstrations.

Students held at least three demonstrations during the day, calling for the right to form a union, despite the heavy security in the capital.

About 60 students held a protest at the Institute of Medicine, flying a flag bearing a peacock — the symbol of Burma's student movement — while truckloads of soldiers sat waiting a block away.

Other students shouted their support from nearby dormitory windows as a crowd of onlookers — including dozens of monks watching from their temple across the road — watched the three-hour protest.

Witnesses said a lightning protest had also been held in front of the U.S. embassy in central Rangoon during the day, bringing together about 50 protesters who scattered with the arrival of riot police.

The protesters shouted "guns were not made to kill students," they said.

Other witnesses said between 50 and 100 students from a technical college marched about a kilometer through the city centre, but dispersed with the appearance of five trucks filled with riot police and troops.

Several students were chased down a side street by the police, the witnesses said, but added it was not clear if any had been picked up.

Security forces remained in the area where the demonstration broke up, trying to locate protesters who had fled, one diplomat said.

"Judging by how the authorities are reacting to the student protests, with blockades and heavy security, SLORC are spooked by what is happening," he said, referring to the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council.

An area of several square kilometres around the main university campus, where security forces violently broke up a protest early Saturday morning, remained sealed off Tuesday.

Security was also heightened downtown following the most defiant student protests since the SLORC took power in a brutal crackdown against nationwide pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988.

Three trucks of armed soldiers were billeted outside one college and barbed wire-lined barricades were placed on the pavement in readiness for possible student action.

Nearby, one of Burma's most revered religious sites, Sule Pagoda, and an adjacent public park had also been sealed off.

The protests spread into the downtown area Monday, with several hundred students from the Kyimyindine College staging an abortive protest march before fleeing when soldiers arrived.

Witnesses said that further north at the Yangon Institute of Technology, about 100 students faced off briefly with riot police before dispersing.

The Burmese capital has been hit by a wave of student protests, unknown in recent years, since a street demonstration a week ago after which up to 700 people were picked up by the authorities before being released.

On Friday, up to 1,000 people took part in a demonstration at a busy Rangoon intersection, before the gathering was broken up early Saturday by riot police wielding batons and blasting students with fire hoses.

Informed sources said that students from Mandalay — Burma's second city in the north of the country — had attempted to come down to Rangoon Monday but had been prevented from doing so when train services south were halted. However, this could not be independently confirmed.

Nobel Peace Prize co-winners Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Belo (left) and resistance leader Jose Ramos-Horta shake hands at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo Monday shortly after the two men gave separate press conferences. Apparent pressure from Indonesia forced the two men, who are championing East Timor's bid for independence, to limit their public appearances together (Reuter photo)

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to East Timor bishop and activist

OSLO (AFP) — The 1996 Nobel Peace Prize was Tuesday jointly awarded to East Timor bishop of Dili Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, and the spokesman in exile of the independence movement, Jose Ramos-Horta, during a solemn ceremony in Oslo.

The chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Francis Sejersted, handed a diploma and a gold medal bearing the likeness of prize creator Alfred Nobel to the co-laureates, which Mr. Horta fumbled and dropped amid high-running emotions.

The 1,000 guests attending the ceremony at Oslo's City Hall, a twin-towered brown brick building with a view over the Oslo Fjord, applauded the laureates with a standing ovation.

Among the distinguished guests were Norway's King Harald V and Queen Sonja, who had given the laureates an audience in the morning.

The co-laureates were also awarded a prize sum of 7.2 million Swedish kronor ($1.1 million), to be shared between them.

Mr. Horta announced that his share would be given to a foundation called "Peace and Democracy Dom Martinho Da Costa Lopes," named after the former bishop of Dili, who was expelled from Timor in 1983 for having denounced the Indonesian oppression and who died in exile in Lisbon in 1991 at the age of 72.

Mr. Horta created the foundation in October with Bishop Belo to provide humanitarian help to orphans, widows and political prisoners and to the resistance movement in general.

Bishop Belo and Mr. Horta, called Tuesday in acceptance speeches here for the release of political prisoners in the territory.

In remarks prepared ahead of the ceremony, they urged an end to Indonesian oppression in East Timor.

"The release of East Timor political prisoners has to be given urgent attention," Bishop Belo said at the awards ceremony in Oslo's city hall, adding: "Such a step would create an important opening on the road to peace."

"Mutual respect is the basis of compromise. Let us start by making a sincere effort to change the very serious human rights situation in East Timor," the bishop of the East Timorese capital of Dili said.

East Timor was a Portuguese colony until 1975, when Indonesian forces first occupied the territory. The United Nations never recognised its annexation the following year.

Recalling the words of late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during his first historical meeting with Palestinian authority President Yasser Arafat in New York, Bishop Belo made an impassioned plea to "stop bloodshed."

"Stop violence. Stop conflict. Let us sit down around a table and understand each other," he urged.

Mr. Horta, 46, who heads an umbrella group of pro-independence factions, the National Council of East Timor Resistance, echoed Bishp Belo's wishes.

"President Suharto can show leadership by releasing all prisoners," he said.

"The leaders and militants of the People's Democratic Party are among the best children of Indonesia. Instead of hunting them he should invite them to his palace for a dialogue about the future."

"Indonesia cannot continue to flout the rights of the people of East Timor to self-determination and the rule of law in Indonesia," he added.

Horta insisted his people are "ready to enter into a process of dialogue with the Indonesian authorities, under the auspices of the United Nations, without preconditions, to explore all possible ideas toward a comprehensive settlement of the conflict."

Taliban accuse Dostum of looting civilians

KABUL (AFP) — The Taliban militia Tuesday accused opposing forces, singling out Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, of looting and dishonouring the Afghan people.

"The militia are committing atrocities against the people," charged Mullah Amir Khan Muttaqi, acting Taliban minister of culture and information.

Mr. Muttaqi was referring to fighting in western Badghis province, where the Taliban fighters are taking on a coalition militia of Dostum's Uzbeks and troops loyal to the ex-Kabul government.

Tens of thousands of civilians have been displaced by the factional fighting in Badghis, which is a buffer between Dostum's northern Fiefdom and the Taliban's controlled city of Herat to the south.

"Dostum is called Gillam Jam by the people," Mr. Muttaqi told journalists, using an an Afghan expression which literally means "carpet gatherers", but has a wider derogatory connotation as destroyer of families.

"This is not new — but he is honoured by the people with this distinction," observed Mr. Muttaqi.

The minister said the military situation in Badghis was calm and although he had no precise details of the relative frontline positions they were north of the Murghab river in the direction of neighbouring Fariab province.

The frontlines north of Kabul were also relatively calm Tuesday after overnight fighting in which Mr. Muttaqi claimed the "Mujahedeen captured some strong positions" from their rivals near the village of Istalif.

"We have broken the defence line of the enemy around Istalif," he said.

Taliban-controlled Istalif is a village about 40 kilometres north of Kabul, where the Taliban established new frontlines after a successful offensive about two weeks ago.

In a two-hour operation late Monday the Taliban pushed forward from Istalif and gained ground towards the district centre of Qarabagh, which is on the main road a few kilometres north of Kalakan, Mr. Muttaqi said.

Mr. Muttaqi specifically referred to the Taliban as Mujahedeen, a term well understood in the west for the religious freedom fighters who defeated the former Soviet occupiers of Afghanistan.

He denied that the ex-Kabul government forces of former Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood — who gained international renown as a guerrilla commander during the jihad (holy war) against the red army — were Mujahedeen.

"In Afghanistan the only Mujahedeen are the Taliban — the rest are militia," asserted Mr. Muttaqi.

The Taliban ranks contain a large number of Mujahedeen who fought the Soviets, but equally there are a large number of ex-Communist regime soldiers, particularly those with special skills such as artillerymen.

Mr. Muttaqi reminded journalists that the head of the Taleban, Mullah Mohammad Omar was wounded four times fighting the Russians.

In Jakarta, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (IOC) was accused by an envoy of ousted Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani Tuesday of acting illegally by leaving the Afghan IOC seat vacant.

"We do not believe the recommendation ... is a legal one, it is not justifiable," said Rahim Gaffoorzai, the deputy foreign minister in the Rabbani government.

China warns Belgium over Taiwan

BEIJING (AFP) — China warned Belgium Tuesday to steer clear of all official contacts with its rival Taiwan after Brussels allowed Taiwanese Foreign Minister John Chang to pay a four-day visit.

"I don't want to see relations between China and Belgium damaged by the issue of Taiwan," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang.

"I hope the Belgian government will keep their promise, made on a number of occasions, to continue to develop only unofficial relations with Taiwan, and not official ties," he said.

Mr. Chang arrived secretly in Belgium Saturday, but announced an early departure, scheduled for Tuesday, after Taiwan newspapers reported his whereabouts.

In Brussels, a Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman insisted that the visit was private and "does not change Belgium's policy toward China in any way."

The spokesman refused to make any other comment on the visit or on China's reaction to it.

In Beijing, a Belgian diplomat told AFP that "the question of Taiwan is sensitive (for China), but this warning is more a matter of form."

He said he did not expect relations with China to deteriorate over the visit.

A spokesman from the Belgian Foreign Ministry said Sunday that Mr. Chang would not have any "political contact" with Belgian authorities during his stay.

Belgium has official diplomatic relations with China and not with Taiwan.

Meanwhile, China launched a fresh offensive against rival Taiwan Tuesday by warning France and Belgium over potential arms sales and contacts with the nationalist island.

The sharp caution came after reports indicated Taiwan's air force Commander-in-Chief Huang Hsien-Jung was in France for a secret visit.

"France has made a clear commitment in its Jan. 12, 1994 joint communique that it would not sell weapons to Taiwan," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in response to questions on Gen. Huang's reported trip to visit arms manufacturers.

"The Chinese side is resolutely opposed to any country's sale of weapons or military equipment of any kind to Taiwan as this behaviour seriously harms China's sovereignty and disrupts the great cause of reunification of China," he added.

The French embassy in Beijing refused to confirm or deny Gen. Huang's visit, which according to Taiwan's China Times daily will include a visit to the Mirage 2000-5 fighters factory.

Taiwan has ordered 60 of the fighter jets, which will be delivered next year.

In a separate development, U.S. President Bill Clinton is calling for the immediate resumption of dialogue between Taiwan and China to seek a peaceful end to their sovereignty dispute, a visiting U.S. official said Tuesday.

"It is our president's wish that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait agree to resume their dialogues immediately, because we believe this is advantageous to both sides," Philip Lader, head of the U.S. small business administration, told reporters before leaving Taiwan at the end of a visit here.

Mr. Lader, who was sent by the United States here Sunday to attend the 20th joint conference of the Republic of China (ROC)-USA, USA-ROC Economic Councils in Taipei, said the U.S. administration believes it is the only way to move to a peaceful resolution.

Algerian rebels kill 8 villagers

ALGIERS (AFP) — Muslim extremists killed eight people in a village in northern Algeria overnight Monday, the security services said Tuesday.

The latest massacre in Algeria's civil war occurred in Bouinan, near Blida which is 50 kilometres south of the capital, the services said.

The new slayings bring to at least 138 the number of civilians killed in a month of killings blamed on armed Islamic extremists at war with the secular authorities, according to unofficial counts.

Last week, 29 civilians were butchered in two night-time attacks in the Mitidja Plain, which extends from the edge of Algiers, and in the mountain that dominates Blida, an area that is a stronghold of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

Meanwhile the private daily Al Khabar newspaper reported Tuesday that a car bomb attack Sunday in the middle of the southwestern city of Tiaret, 240 kilometres from Algiers, killed one person and injured several others.

The civil war began in 1992 after the military-backed government cancelled the second round of elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win and the banned the FIS.

Meanwhile, a top rights monitor in Algeria, Abdennour Ali Yahia, has stated that human rights do not exist in the country and estimated that political violence has claimed more than 80,000 lives in four years.

"I say there are no human rights in Algeria," Mr. Ali Yahia told the Arab-language daily Al-Alem Al-Siyassi in an interview published Tuesday. "We note that human rights and citizens' rights do not exist."

The lawyer, who heads the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADDH), dismissed frequent claims by his adversaries that he put the activities of the security forces and those of armed Muslim fundamentalists at war with the secular regime on the same footing.

"Yes, civilians have been slaughtered (by armed Islamic groups)," he said. "We are against these actions. But we do not distinguish among citizens in the matter of the right to life and facing death. Soldiers and policemen are the sons of the people. Those who are fighting the state are too. We cannot make that mistake."

Police swoop in Paris after train blast

PARIS (R) — French police raided buildings housing Muslims in the Paris area Tuesday, a week after a bomb on a city train killed four people, police said.

Police said the raids, involving several dozen officers in Paris and surrounding suburbs, were still under way at around 8.30 a.m. (0730 GMT).

They declined to confirm French media reports that about a dozen people had been detained in the raids.

The swoops were ordered by anti-terrorist magistrates in charge of the probe into the bombing at the Port-Royal Station in Paris last Tuesday that killed four people and injured 94.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, which bore similarities to a 1995 wave of bombings by Algerian Muslim extremists that killed eight people and injured more than 160.

Last year's bombing wave ended after dozens of suspects were rounded up in raids around France.

Roland Jacquard, head of the Paris-based International Observatory of Terrorism, said Tuesday's raids seemed partly to be aimed at tracking down people with links to Ali Touchent, one of the main Algerian suspects in last year's bombs who is still free.

Mr. Jacquard told Public France Info radio that such police raids operations were not necessarily to catch the guerrillas who planted the bombs. The aim was to seize clues such as address books and arms "and above all to disorganise the networks."

Last year the investigators' main break came when one of the guerrillas, Khaled Kelkal, was identified from a fingerprint on a bomb that failed to explode by a railway track near the central city of Lyon.

His address book in turn led to identification of suspected accomplices who are now in detention. Kelkal was shot dead in a gun battle with police.

Thirty-four Muslim fundamentalists are standing trial in Paris on charges of backing Moroccan guerrillas. Tight security blanketed the trial as it opened Monday amid fears that last week's bomb was timed to protest at the trial.

Tajik leader heads for talks in Afghanistan

DUSHANBE (R) — Tajikistan President Imomali Rakhmonov left Tuesday for peace talks with Islamist rebel leader Sayid Abdullo Nuri in northern Afghanistan as further violence rocked the former Soviet republic.

Airport officials in the Tajik capital Dushanbe confirmed Mr. Rakhmonov's departure for Afghanistan early Tuesday.

The Tajik interior ministry said one government soldier was killed and another wounded in a shootout with opposition guerrillas near Dushanbe late Monday.

"We carried out a raid on a suspected opposition base in Dzhangalabad when the shooting occurred," said a ministry spokesman.

A guerrilla commander was killed in the raid and three opposition fighters were captured, he added.

Mr. Nuri arrived in the Afghan town of Kunduz Monday for the peace talks after his aircraft was delayed by Afghanistan's purist Islamic Taleban militia, the United Nations said.

The talks were expected to begin when Mr. Rakhmonov and U.N. special envoy Gerd Merrem arrive in Kunduz.

Mr. Nuri was travelling to the talks in a U.N. aircraft Saturday when warplanes belonging to the Taleban forced it to land.

The Taleban said Sunday the aircraft had been released and authorised to continue its flight.

U.N. spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said there was an apparent misunderstanding between the United Nations and the Taleban.

Christopher vows no NATO nuclear bases in East Europe

BRUSSELS (AFP) — U.S. Secretary Of State Warren Christopher sought to reassure Russia over NATO expansion Tuesday, reiterating that the alliance would not expand nuclear bases to Eastern Europe and outlining proposals on a cooperation charter with Moscow.

"We are declaring that in today's Europe, NATO has no intention, no plan and no need to station nuclear weapons on the territory of any new members and we are affirming that no NATO nuclear forces are presently on alert," he said in a speech to NATO foreign ministers meeting here Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. Christopher reiterated proposals for a "charter" to define a "truly cooperative relationship" between NATO and Russia.

However, he said that the charter could not take the form of a "rigid legalistic treaty," as Moscow would like, but would involve "a process of consultation and a regular pattern of security cooperation."

"NATO is signalling its readiness to exchange liaison offices with Russia at our major military commands," Mr. Christopher added.

NATO foreign ministers are to confer with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov during the two-day meeting to try to appease Moscow's objections to plans to admit former Warsaw pact countries into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

They are likely to give NATO's secretary general the go-ahead to begin formal discussions on the cooperation charter with the Kremlin.

The ministers are also due to set a date for a NATO summit next year which will name the new countries to be brought into the alliance.

Mr. Christopher said the member nations would make the decision "at a summit in the summer of 1997."

Diplomats have given the date for the meeting as July 8-9.

No formal decision has yet been made on which countries will be offered membership at that point, but the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland considered the most likely candidates.

Mr. Christopher also proposed that those countries which are not invited to join in the first wave should be included "as soon as possible" in a new cooperation body, which he called the "alliance partnership council."

This would replace NATO's current North Atlantic Cooperation Council.

Mr. Christopher said that foreign ministers should decide Tuesday to "move forward to define an enhanced relationship between Ukraine and NATO."

2 cosmonauts complete space walk

MOSCOW (R) — Two Russian cosmonauts from the orbiting station Mir successfully completed a space walk of more than six hours Monday, turning on a solar panel providing power, a spokesman at the mission control centre said.

"They closed the hatch at 11.28. They completed the whole work programme," the spokesman said by telephone from mission control just outside Moscow.

He said the cosmonauts, Valery Korzun and Alexander Koleri, had spent more than 6-1/2 hours outside Mir checking and turning on the solar panel.

They also attached an aerial system for use when the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis docks with Mir next month.

A spokeswoman had said earlier Monday that the space walk had been expected to last six hours. It was not clear if the cosmonauts had suffered any problems during their work.

The cosmonauts had assembled the U.S-made solar panel, which was delivered to Mir by atlantis, during another space walk on Dec. 2.

U.S. astronaut John Blaha remained inside Mir to observe and monitor the work during both space walks.

Blaha and his two Russian colleagues have been in orbit on Mir since Sept. 19.

Serb opposition boycotts parliament

BELGRADE (AFP) . The opposition coalition Together, which claims Belgrade robbed it of victory in municipal elections, boycotted the opening session of the Federal Yugoslav Parliament Tuesday.

The boycott was in protest against a decision by authorities to cancel most results of two-round municipal elections on Nov. 17 in which opposition candidates won in 15 of Serbia's 18 biggest towns, including Belgrade.

The federal parliament, representing Serbia and Montenegro, was elected on Nov. 3 and is dominated by the ruling Socialists of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

After the session got underway, the parliament rejected a motion from another opposition group to debate the massive protests that have broken out in Belgrade and other Serbian cities over the annulment of local voting results.

Mile Isakov of the Vojvodina Coalition, which has two deputies in parliament, had urged a special session dedicated to the protests and the U.S. threat of a renewal of sanctions against the Yugoslav Federation, and called for Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic to address the assembly.

But the motion was rejected by a majority, with only the eight deputies of the Popular Party of Montenegro backing the proposal. The 16 deputies of the ultra-nationalist Radical Serb Party abstained.

The wave of anti-government demonstrations, which entered its fourth week Tuesday, has drawn up to 200,000 people calling for Mr. Milosevic to resign.

In the parliamentary elections, together obtained only 22 of the 138 seats while a coalition dominated by Mr. Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party won 64 seats.

The Democratic Socialist Party of Montenegro won 20 seats, the Radical Serb Party 16, the Popular Party of Montenegro took eight, the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians three, the Vojvodina Coalition two, and the list for Sandzak, the Social-Democratic Party of Montenegro and the Democratic Action Party of Montenegro one each.

Meanwhile, NATO called Tuesday on Mr. Milosevic to recognise the results of municipal elections in a statement here effectively backing opposition leaders who claimed victory in the polls.

The alliance urged Belgrade authorities to "avoid any use of force against peaceful demonstrators" who have taken to the streets for three weeks of huge anti-government protests.

In the statement, issued after a meeting of foreign ministers, the 16 NATO states said they "strongly deplore" the Serbian government decision to cancel the results of the Nov. 17 municipal elections, and called on authorities "to respect the democratic will of the people by reversing that decision."

"We are dismayed that Serbian authorities have ignored the calls of the international community to respect internationally recognised democratic principles," it added.

"We commend the opposition for its adherence to non-violence and call upon the government to avoid any use of force against the peaceful protestors."

In Brussels, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher warned the Milosevic regime that it would be increasingly isolated if it did not accept the vote.

"The people of Serbia deserve what their neighbours in Central Europe have: Clean elections, a free press, a normal market economy," Mr. Christopher said.

"If President Milosevic respects their will, Serbia can enjoy the legitimacy and assistance it needs. If he seeks to rule Serbia as an unreformed dictatorship, it will only increase his isolation and the suffering of his people," he added.

Washington has been tightening pressure on Belgrade, the latest move being the scrapping by a U.S. envoy of talks with Mr. Milosevic.

Assistant Secretary of State John Kornblum was to have gone to Belgrade to press the Serbian president to end his anti-democratic behaviour, an official said.

But Mr. Kornblum decided against the trip "because he doesn't think it's useful to talk to Milosevic at this particular moment," added the official, who spoke on condition he not be named.

Mr. Kornblum's decision came after Mr. Christopher said in Brussels that he would seek Russia's support to consider reimposing sanctions on Belgrade that were lifted after Mr. Milosevic signed the Bosnia peace accord.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said Serbia's leaders "must be aware that we are not prepared to accept behaviour contrary to the universally accepted rules of democracy."

"We must send them a strong signal of our condemnation of the attitude of those in power to the opposition demonstrations," he added.

On Friday, President Bill Clinton announced he had decided to extend for a year the limited U.S. freezing of financial assets on U.S. soil of the governments of Serbia, Montenegro and the Serb-run entity in Bosnia.

Leader of the New Zealand First Party, Winston Peters, leaves parliament house in Wellington after a press conference in which he announced a coalition with the conservative National Party Tuesday. The announcement ended two months of uncertainty since October's general election (Reuter photo)

N. Zealand First to team up with National in power

WELLINGTON (R) — Nationalist New Zealand First party leader Winston Peters said Tuesday he would join a coalition with the conservative National Party, ending two months of uncertainty since October's general election.

"The New Zealand First caucus and executive have chosen this afternoon by a massive consensus to form a coalition government with the National Party until the next election in 1999," Mr. Peters said in a televised announcement.

Mr. Peters, sacked by Prime Minister Jim Bolger from National's cabinet in 1991, claimed the new position of treasurer in a coalition government headed by his former arch-enemy. He will also be deputy prime minister.

Mr. Peters said the Reserve Bank Act would be retained.

But the Central Bank's inflation target would be widened to 0-3 per cent from 0-2 per cent, and it would add a new objective of sustainable economic growth to its existing goal of price stability.

New Zealand First said tax cuts planned by National for July 1997 would be deferred by a year but would go ahead provided adequate budget surpluses were available.

The New Zealand dollar initially firmed on the news but then retreated and countrywide bank immediately announced a cut in its home lending rate to 9.95 per cent from 10.75 per cent.

The decision marked a huge about-turn for Mr. Peters, who berated National during the election campaign as an arrogant and callous party with no soul.

It represented a negotiating triumph for the wily, tactically astute Bolger, written off by some commentators on election night when a New Zealand First-Labour deal appeared more likely.

National has 44 seats in the new 120-member parliament and Labour 37, with New Zealand First on 17.

Political analysts said Mr. Peters faced a challenge to sell the deal to his supporters across New Zealand, including large numbers of Maoris who have historically favoured Labour but switched to New Zealand First in large numbers at the election.

Mandela signs new S. African constitution

SHARPEVILLE, South Africa (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela Tuesday signed the country's new constitution into law, officially ending the period of multiparty powersharing in South Africa's political transition.

Mr. Mandela hailed the basic law document as the embodiment of "our nation's highest aspirations."

The constitution, widely regarded as one of the most liberal in the world, scraps the current national unity government, restructures parliament and paves the way for the country's next election, scheduled for 1999.

More than 15,000 members of the public and invited dignitaries gathered under a heavy police and army presence in a football stadium in this township south of Johannesburg to witness the ceremony, held to coincide with International Human Rights Day.

In 1960, the township was the scene of the sharpeville massacre, when apartheid police gunned down 69 unarmed black civil rights protestors.

On Tuesday, however, it was the scene of celebration as some of the country's leading musicians and dancers entertained the crowd from a massive, colourfully decorated stage during the ceremony that was broadcast live on state television.

Among the spectators sitting in the baking sun, were a small group of people who survived the Sharpeville killings.

Mr. Mandela said the constitution is a monument to those "whose blood drenched the soil of Sharpeville and elsewhere in our country."

"As we close ... a chapter of heroic struggle, we reaffirm our determination to build a society of which each of us can be proud as South Africans, as Africans, and as citizens of the world.

"In writing the words which today have become South Africa's fundamental law, our elected representatives have faithfully heard the voice of the people," he said, referring to the 490-member constitutional assembly which drafted the constitution.

As Mr. Mandela spoke, six airforce helicopters flew over the stadium, each towing the national flag.

The new constitution took 18 months, thousands of public submissions and numerous lengthy closed door meetings between Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and the former ruling national party.

The document was passed by the assembly with the required two-thirds majority on May 10 this year, the second anniversary of Mr. Mandela's inauguration.

The constitutional court, the country's most powerful judicial body, initially sent eight sections of the document back to the assembly for redrafting and finally approved it last Wednesday.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC's chief negotiator during the drafting process, told the crowd that the signing marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new one.

"It is the end of 350 years struggle for national unity," he said referring to the date European settlers first colonised South Africa.

"Today marks the legal transition to a constitution that represents the will of the overwhelming majority of the people of this country," Ramaphosa said. "It is one law for one nation."

Ramaphosa, along with his NP counterpart Roelf Meyer are regarded as the main architects of the new document, which replaces the interim constitution that was negotiated prior to the 1994 poll.

Seated on the podium near Mr. Mandela was NP leader and former President, Frederik De Klerk, who withdrew his party from Mr. Mandela's cabinet shortly before the new constitution was passed by the assembly.

Mr. Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, was also among the dignataries and government ministers at there ceremony.

Conspicous by their absence, however, were representatives of the Zulu-nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), the country's third largest, which walked out of the constitutional negotiations in March 1995.

The IFP, which has repeatedly demanded greater autonomy for its Kwazulu-Natal province stronghold and accused the ANC of breaching a pre-election promise to submit disputed issues to international mediation, has threatened it will not recognise the constitution.

Despite the IFP's rejection of the document, Mr. Mandela diverted from the text prepared speech to say that there were "good men and women in all parties ... including the Inkatha Freedom Party."

Legislators will begin implementing several aspects of the constitution early next year, starting with the restructuring of the national parliament.

The constitution's signing into law opens the way for the next general election, which although scheduled in May 1999, could now be held earlier.

U.S. set to scrap surplus plutonium

WASHINGTON (R) – The Clinton administration announced Monday it will scrap 50 tons of deadly plutonium left over from the nuclear weapons programme by immobilizing some in glass and burning some in nuclear power plants.

The energy department, which announced the policy to get rid of the unwanted cold war residue, said it will take a "dual-track strategy" to dispose of the plutonium, giving itself flexibility in case one scheme proved less workable.

It will take some 20 years to dispose of the plutonium, department officials said, a move deemed essential to keep the material from falling into enemy hands.

"For five decades, the United States built up a huge stockpile of plutonium — the deadly stuff of nuclear weapons. Today, we begin to destroy it," Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary said at a news conference.

"We have a clear message to the world: We are committed to irreversible nuclear reductions and we will ensure that surplus plutonium is never again used for nuclear weapons."

Experts say it takes only several pounds of high-grade plutonium to make a bomb capable of doing considerable damage and releasing deadly radioactive fallout.

In one tactic to dispose of the material, plutonium would be immobilised or "vitrified" in glass or ceramic blocks for long-term storage.

The other would combine it with conventional nuclear fuel as mix-oxide, or "mox," and used in nuclear power plants.

That would cut the residue of plutonium roughly in half although it will also produce a more dangerous spent fuel than conventional nuclear-reactor waste. That waste also would go into long-term storage, but the nation does not yet have a site for a long-term nuclear dump.

The department said that unlike some other countries that allow reprocessing of fuel to recover plutonium, the United States would not let the mox fuel be reprocessed, so civilian reactors would not produce material that could be used in nuclear weapons.

But nuclear arms control advocates and some lawmakers say re-using plutonium in commercial reactors will entrench commercial use of plutonium instead of discourage it.

This, they say, goes against the Clinton administration's policy of non-proliferation of weapons-grade plutonium and efforts to reduce the nuclear threat after the cold war.

"This decision, if implemented, will be a major setback in U.S. non-proliferation policy," said representative Edward Markey, D-Mass, who joined with seven other democratic lawmakers in a written appeal urging President Clinton to reject the plan.

"Using plutonium for civilian power generation purposes would reverse 20 years of U.S. policy, would undermine the U.S. message to the rest of the world on commercial plutonium use, and could result in some countries using the pretext of military plutonium disposal to design and construct nuclear power plants that depend on plutonium for fuel," they wrote.

Rebel Voodoo fighters rout Zaire army in eastern town

BENI, Zaire (R) — Zairean rebels using a bizarre mix of child soldiers and voodoo warriors have cut off government forces in an east Zaire town, aid workers said.

The spokesman for the central government in Kinshasa admitted Zaire had been "humiliated" in its war with Rwandan-backed rebels, who have seized more and more towns.

Speaking at a news conference in the capital Monday, spokesman Boguo Makeli also launched a stinging attack on the international media for "disseminating rebel propaganda."

"The latest discovery of this press is to announce several days in advance that such and such a locality has fallen in the hands of the aggressors, all this with the objective of demoralising our troops and confusing the population," said Mr. Boguo, who is Zaire's information minister.

He reaffirmed Zaire's determination to recover a swathe of territory captured by rebels since fighting began in October.

"We must fight to recover the lost territories. We have to first of all settle the military score. We have been attacked, we have been humiliated," Mr. Boguo said.

Aid workers said Banyamulenge rebels using Mai-Mai tribal witchcraft fighters, many of them children, cut off army troops in the northeastern town of Bunia Monday.

"The Banyamulenge have surrounded Bunia with Mai-Mai," said Mustafa Lufungula, local operations head of the Zaire Red Cross in Beni, 140 kilometres from Bunia.

The Banyamulenge are ethnic Tutsis who became the catalyst for a wider rebel insurgency against the Zairean government when they were threatened with expulsion from Zaire in October.

"The Mai-Mai children tell us what is going on, because they trust us, and because we look after them when they are wounded," he added. "The Banyamulenge are using them because of their supposed magic powers, they are taking advantage of them."

The Mai-Mai believe bullets turn into water if their chief has innoculated the target with a secret vaccine. Their army has children as young as 10 years old and their main motive for fighting seems to be loot.

The Mai-Mai take their name from the Swahili word for water and fight in family groups armed with rifles, crossbows, slingshots, spears and home-made shotguns.

Rebels say Bunia, defended by up to 5,000 Zairean troops, is their next target on the northern front as they extend the area they have carved out of eastern Zaire in the past seven weeks.

They say their ultimate aim is to overthrow the central government, already weakened by the prolonged absence of President Mobutu Sese Seko with cancer in Europe.

Mr. Boguo did not say how Zaire intended to fight back the rebels given the poor showing of its indisciplined army, but hinted Zaire might be counting on some form of outside help.

"Zaire does not have only enemies, it also has friends," the minister said. He said, Zaire was keeping to its transition timetable with elections due next May.

Zairean troops make things easier for the rebels by raping and pillaging as they flee.

Roman Catholic Church officials disclosed Monday how Zairean paratroopers and presidential guards fled advancing rebels after raping elderly nuns and torturing a seminarian at the Mission of Our Lady of Peace and a nearby covent about 350 kilometres north of the city of Goma.

Bomb aimed at Austrian minister's step-mother

VIENNA (R) — Suspected racist bombers have targeted the spiritualist step-mother of Interior Minister Caspar Einem in the latest letter bomb attack to hit Austria but sent the device to the wrong address.

Speaking hours after the letter bomb exploded, widow Lotte Ingrisch, 66, said Monday she was shocked by the news she had become a target of violence. No one was injured in the blast.

"I did not expect I could arouse someone's interest enough for them to put together a bomb for me," Ms. Ingrisch, a self-declared medium, told Reuters in an interview.

The package was incorrectly addressed to the home Ms. Ingrisch left a year ago and did not reach her. She now lives in a central Vienna apartment that was once part of the former Imperial Hofburg Palace.

Ms. Ingrisch said her connection with the interior minister could have been a reason for the bombers to single her out.

"Alternatively, they must know I'm not against foreigners or nationalist, or otherwise someone hates me because of my supernatural relationships," she said.

Giving off an aura of calm, the silver-haired spiritualist said she was not afraid because she was in regular contact with the dead, including her late composer husband, Gottfried Von Einem, who died in July, aged 78.

"I have no fear whatsoever. I have a good relationship with death," said Ms. Ingrisch, surrounded by her four cats. "Death is a change of state of our consciousness and our physical being, but it is not an end."

No group has yet claimed responsibility for sending the device but the self-styled Bajuwarischen Liberation Army (BLA) has admitted sending more than a score of racially-motivated letter bombs since December 1993, which have injured 12 people.

Mr. Einem said if his step-mother had still lived at her former address, the device would have arrived on Dec. 3, the third anniversary of the first letter bomb attack.

Ms. Ingrisch said she suspected the bomb could be the work of old sympathisers active under the regime of Austrian-born Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler or younger neo-Nazi fanatics.

She said she and her husband had received around a dozen hate messages and threats in the past, but never letter bombs.

Mr. Einem would always ring and warn them to watch out when there was a potential bomb threat so they would be on the lookout for suspect packages, she said.

23,000 Rwandans flee Tanzania camps

GENEVA (AFP) — Some 23,000 Rwandan refugees have fled camps in northwest Tanzania following a propaganda campaign by Hutu extremists urging them not to go home, a spokeswoman from the U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday.

Some 16,000 left Rubwera Camp and the entire 7,000 population deserted Kagenyi Camp, both in the Karagwe region, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) spokeswoman Pamela O'Toole said in Geneva.

She said the departures "followed a campaign by extremists who have been going from hut to hut urging the refugees to leave the camp but not to return to Rwanda."

Some of the refugees are heading toward Uganda and Kenya and many are moving into Tanzanian villages or wandering aimlessly nearby, according to UNHCR field reports.

The Tanzanian government announced last week that conditions in Rwanda permitted the 535,000 rwandan refugees in Tanzanian camps to return in safety. It wants them out of the country by the end of the month.

The exodus also follows a move by local authorities to enforce orders given a year ago restricting refugee movements to within four kilometres of the camps and intended to stop all commercial activities.

On Monday the UNHCR repatriated 104 refugees from the Karagwe area, which houses 123,000 Rwandans in five camps, and 700 from Ngara.

Some 5,534 candidates have registered to return to Rwanda.

The UNHCR also said 2,610 Rwandan refugees have gone home since Friday from the area around north Goma in eastern Zaire while less than a hundred made it back from the Bukavu area in South Kivu province.

The main Hutu refugee movement, the Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR), protested against the Tanzanian repatriation plan Tuesday and said that it created a new risk of conflict in the region.

Rebels fail to blast Sri Lanka port

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas Tuesday said they lost a woman suicide cadre in an abortive attempt to attack a strategic naval base in north-eastern Sri Lanka.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the woman fighter from the elite "Black Sea Tiger" unit was killed as she tried to ram an explosives laden boat in to the port of Trincomalee Sunday.

The clandestine radio of the LTTE, the voice of Tigers, did not say how their attack misfired but officials said the navy had blasted the suicide woman's boat out of the water before she could cause any damage.

In October, a similar Tiger suicide boat rammed against a navy gunboat and killed 12 sailors just outside the same port of Trincomalee, a key launching pad for action against Tigers in the island's north-east.

The latest round of fighting known as "Eelam War III" started in Trincomalee when the LTTE called off six months of talks with the government and sank two gun boats berthed inside the port in April last year.

Tiger guerrillas who are leading a protracted campaign for a homeland called Eelam in the island's northern and eastern regions have staged similar attacks against the navy in the region since then.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has agreed to postpone local government polls scheduled for early 1997 in the north of the country, a leader of the minority Tamils said Tuesday.

"We said we're not in a position to contest the election physically or politically because we have nothing to offer to the people. She agreed to postpone the election," Douglas Devananda, of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), told Reuters.

"We need time," he said.

Mr. Devananda said he had three hours of talks with Ku-maratunga Monday along with leaders of the Democratic People's Liberation Front, a former Tamil separatist militia that, like the EPDP, has entered mainstream politics.

Colombo last month announced plans to hold local government elections in Jaffna and three other districts in the north that were recaptured from Tamil Tiger rebels earlier this year. It had called for nominations for the elections this week.

But moderate Tamil political parties in Colombo opposed the plan, saying the north was unsuitable for a peaceful election as vast areas of the region were still under the control of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جريدة تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 684311, 699634
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Partnership for rights

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN Rights Day which falls on Dec. 10 of each year was aptly observed in Jordan when Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti was the keynote speaker at a seminar organised by the Arab Human Rights Organisation to commemorate the occasion on Monday. The symbolism of the prime minister's participation at the celebration could not have been more noticed and appreciated than by the very pan-Arab human rights group which only several weeks ago had levelled serious charges against his government as registering the "worst human right record in the country since 1989."

Mr. Kabariti did not attend the meeting merely to refute those charges, it seems, but also to engage the human rights activists in a fresh dialogue that aims at synchronising their and the government's work in the field. After reiterating the Kingdom's full commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which serves as the basis for all human rights codifications, the prime minister proceeded to outline what might be described as a blueprint by the government to achieve more positive results.

The planned infrastructure for human rights enunciated by Mr. Kabariti includes the establishment of the projected Centre for the Study of Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights in the Arab World, whose concept was defined by His Majesty King Hussein in 1992. There is no doubt that the creation of this institution would form the backbone for any serious effort to protect and promote human rights, although it should have been in operation already, especially since the work of the Royal Committee that was charged with drafting its legislation was finished some time ago. The standoff between the Royal Committee members who had sought to establish an effective machinery to develop democracy and human rights and others who prefer to establish only a base for conducting research has effectively delayed the birth of the centre. It is therefore reassuring that the prime minister is determined to expedite the effort and set in motion its operations as soon as possible.

But Mr. Kabariti did not stop at this in his address yesterday. While reassuring his audience that Jordan's judiciary is already sufficiently independent, he expressed the belief that more can still be done to further bolster the role of the judicial system in the country. Jordan would thus wait with much anticipation the articulation of the additional measures envisioned for protecting the court system from all forms of intimidation or pressure from any source.

Equally important is Mr. Kabariti's commitment to amend the Press and Publications Law in a bid to "raise the ceiling of the freedom and responsibilities of the press." The critical role of free press can never be exaggerated since it provides the forum and the mechanism for sounding the alarm when there are serious human rights violations.

What remains to be done is of course follow-up measures on yesterday's dialogue. We just hope that in the not-too-distant future, a similar debate will be initiated over specific areas in the general field of human rights.

Specifically we should be interested in exploring civil liberties, personal rights, freedom of choice by citizens, the public's right to know and gearing instruments of the state to serve the individual rather than continue to cling always to the system that we have been accustomed to. The human rights activists themselves have to take new initiatives concerned with ascertaining those rights. Then, and only then, can the onus be shifted onto the government to respond. A process will follow. True it might be long and tortuous. But it will nevertheless be necessary and beneficial to all citizens and certainly the state itself.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for **Al Ra'i** Monday urged the whole Arab Nation to back the renewed efforts of Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), aimed at achieving reconciliation between Iraq and the rest of the Arab countries and said that the efforts come from a wise leader, keen on protecting his nation's interests. Samir Qtami said that Sheikh Zayed had made a previous call to the Arabs, urging them to end the sufferings of the Iraqi people because he believes differences can only weaken the Arabs and allow the nation's enemies to dominate their destiny. Sheikh Zayed realises that all the Arab countries, especially the oil-rich nations, are exposed to danger and that the foreign powers which rallied to liberate Kuwait came to the Gulf to protect their own interests only and not those of the Arab states, said the writer. It is because Iraq has been weakened that the military balance in the Gulf has been shaken, that Turkey is freely invading northern Iraq and Iran is consolidating its hold on the Arab Gulf islands, added the writer. The UAE president also realises that it is due to the Arab countries' weakness that Mr. Netanyahu is disregarding their rights and that Kuwait, which will always be a neighbour to Iraqm has no alternative but to make peace with its northern neighbour, said the writer. He added that the Arab states in general and the Gulf countries in particular ought to rally behind the UAE in ending the embargo on Iraq and the differences that have been plaguing the Arab Nation.

The Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

Clinton committed to a 'successful completion of an Arab-Israeli peace'

THE PRESIDENT'S announcement of the national security team that will guide his second term in office is certain to rekindle discussion in the Middle East as to precisely what a second Clinton term will mean for the region.

Undoubtedly, this renewed wave of speculation will focus on the personalities of the new team, while ignoring the fact that this team is virtually identical to the group that served the president during his first four years.

The most important factors that will ultimately shape the U.S. policy in the second term are the personality of the president (and not the personalities of his cabinet), domestic and international political realities, and U.S. national interests. In fact, many of the Arab and Israeli analysts who speculated about the direction of Clinton's second term in the weeks immediately following his reelection seemed to understand this, although their analysis were oftentimes overly deterministic and simplistic.

There were also, of course, some naively optimistic notions about how a reelected president is freed from political pressures and can therefore make dramatic changes in policy. But that of course is just fantasy, since the president lives in a world where he must continue to face a Congress and powerful interest groups who will exercise significant influence in shaping and limiting future policy options.

But this observation should not lead one back to the simplistic conclusion shared by the majority of Arab and Israeli analysts that politics and interests will combine to produce no change in a Clinton second term.

I say this because the personality of the president is an important determinant in shaping policy and the two factors of political reality and national interests are themselves not static constants unaffected by external events.

The end of the cold war and the completion of the Gulf war, for example, resulted in a realisation by the U.S. that the promotion of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East was essential to secure U.S. national interests in the broader region. The architects of Madrid stipulated that continued political division resulting from the Arab-Israeli conflict was unacceptable and would only lead to instability which would continue to complicate U.S. relations in the Middle East. To achieve this necessary comprehensive peace it was determined that two essential criteria be met: guaranteeing Israeli security and implementing the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

This expanded definition of U.S. interests has been accepted by President Clinton. In a number of policy statements since assuming office, the president has emphasised both U.S. interest in the completion of the peace process and the necessity that the process be comprehensive and balanced.

At a White House news conference earlier this year the president noted: "Our challenge is to now broaden the circle of peace, recognising the principles that underlie the peace process, territory for peace, realisation of the legitimate right of the Palestinian people, security for all parties and full real peace."

And so, while it is true that national interests will play a role in shaping the Middle East policy of the second term, those "national interests" will not be defined as narrowly as they are by some Israeli analysts (i.e., to include only Israeli interests) nor will they be defined as negatively as some Arab analysts have the penchant to do (i.e., to promote Israeli hegemony or maintain Arab division).

In fact, there is a growing appreciation in the U.S. today that a collapse of the peace process will fuel extremist tendencies throughout the Middle East, which will have a long-term destabilising effect on U.S. interests and U.S. allies in the region. This is a broader definition of U.S. security interests than existed previously and a driving force behind the U.S. commitment to the achievement of a comprehensive Middle East peace.

Domestic political factors that will shape Clinton's second term have also undergone some changes as a result of the peace process. For example, there is today an ongoing debate within the Jewish community over the policies being pursued by the Netanyahu government. Most American Jews and some major Jewish organisations were exhilarated by the peace process and became heavily invested in its success. While there is a strong tradition of Jewish organisations not publicly criticising Israeli government positions to which they are opposed, that has changed somewhat in recent years. Ironically, it was the supporters of Likud who established the precedent of public criticism with their denunciation of Rabin and Peres.

If Netanyahu is perceived as unwilling to move peace forward, or should a crisis develop that is perceived to be the result of Israeli provocation or intransigence, his government may not receive the support of all sectors of the U.S. Jewish community.

Throughout the first term, the Clinton administration sought to provide support for the peace process mainly by providing Israel with incentives to encourage risk taking. Arabs were urged to demonstrate confidence-building gestures to show Israelis the benefits that peace would bring.

So extensive was the U.S. effort to win Israeli public support for peace (especially following the waves of violence that took scores of Israeli lives), that many Arab critics began to see the peace process as essentially an Israeli-centred effort.

Despite being showered by U.S. incentives and Arab confidence-building gestures, Labour was inhibited from moving peace forward due to its fear of Likud's extremist religious and nationalist supporters. During that period, the U.S. goal was to strengthen Labour and convince the majority of Israelis to support the peace agreements.

Notwithstanding these U.S. efforts, including politically induced silence in the face of Israel's massive assault on Lebanon, the Labour government that made peace lost its bid for reelection and was replaced by a Likud leadership that has not yet made a strategic decision to accept and implement the principles of a comprehensive peace.

With Likud in office, U.S. policy has already undergone a subtle but significant transformation. While still resisting to the use of public negative pressure to force changes in Israeli policy, the administration has repeatedly stated its insistence that the new Israeli government honour agreements it has signed with the Palestinians. And in response to the violence that erupted in the wake of Israel's opening of the tunnel in Jerusalem, even a casual Israeli observer could have noted the difference in the U.S. reaction to Netanyahu, in contrast to that which was accorded to his Labour predecessor.

"This U.S. effort thus appears to be directed at creating the precedent of the first signed Likud-PNA agreement that it hopes will produce both a psychological change within the coalition and possibly a change in the coalition itself."

The current U.S. approach to the peace process seems to be focused on producing modifications in the existing order: within Israel, in the Israeli-Palestinian relationship, and in the daily lives of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

The administration appears to believe that once signing an agreement with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the Likud will have taken an irreversible step towards engagement in the peace process. Arab critics fearful of Likud's intentions dispute this notion and the Palestinian leadership still refuses, for reasons of principle and politics, to sign a Hebron agreement which they hold to be deficient. Palestinians do not want to see a Hebron agreement detached from Israeli commitment to full compliance with the rest of the peace accords — and in this regard they appear to have some U.S. support.

What the administration seems to be focused on is the effect they believe a Hebron agreement will produce within the Likud coalition, since some of the coalition's more extremist members have indicated that they might resign should a Hebron deal be signed. This U.S. effort thus appears to be directed at creating the precedent of the first signed Likud-PNA agreement that it hopes will produce both a psychological change within the coalition and possibly a change in the coalition itself.

Additionally, the administration is engaged on a number of levels in working to improve the economic life of the West Bank and Gaza, specifically by pressing Israel to remove impediments it has established that stunt Palestinian economic development.

It is important to note that one of the major proponents of this policy is Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstadt. Eizenstadt was an official in the Carter White House and a leader in the U.S. Jewish community. A speech he recently delivered calling on Israel to remove obstacles to Palestinian commerce has generated some serious debate within Israel and the U.S. Jewish community.

All these changes, already begun during the Clinton first term, can be expected to continue (and, some would hope, be intensified and pursued more aggressively) during the second term.

Having noted that there will be this continuity from the first to the second term does not diminish one important role that the second term will play in shaping Bill Clinton's foreign policy. This will be his last term in public office, a fact that weighs heavily on the president.

It is clear even from his first term that this president is personally heavily interested in the search for Middle East peace. He has grown considerably in his understanding and appreciation of the issues facing the people of the region and has developed a personal rapport with both Arab and Israeli leadership. He is aware of the consequences a failed peace process would have on the U.S. national security interests and is equally mindful of his leadership role and the legacy he is creating.

By having noted that the changing definition of U.S. national interests, the debate within the U.S. Jewish community and the personal role of the president will all contribute to shaping U.S. policy in the second Clinton term, the Arab World will certainly not be mere passive observers during the next four years.

The firm resolve of the Arab summit to commit the Arab consensus to peace while at the same time insisting that peace with Israel be based on the principles of reciprocity, and the firm position of the Palestinian leadership to insist that the Israeli government fully implement the peace accords, will play an important role in shaping U.S. policy in the next period. This Arab pressure will provide needed balance to the peace equation.

For our part, Arab Americans will continue to engage both the administration and the Jewish community in our efforts to advance the peace process. We will continue to work with the administration to explore solutions to problems that impede realisation of Palestinian rights and we will provide ideas we feel will help move the process forward. In part, we will press that there be no further delay in bringing economic benefits of peace to the West Bank and Gaza.

For three years, the situation of the Palestinians has deteriorated and their condition today should become a policy priority. At the same time, we will continue to push the administration to bring new energy and activism to the peace process, to restate the vision of a comprehensive peace and to lay out an aggressive programme for its implementation. In fact, this active involvement of Arab Americans in U.S. politics is itself one of the hopeful changes that has developed in recent years and has already, albeit in a limited manner, produced some change in the U.S. policy debate.

It is incorrect, therefore, to view a Clinton second term with either passive optimism or fatalistic cynicism. Changing definitions of U.S. national security interests and changing political realities both in the U.S. and the Middle East have created both imperatives and opportunities for those who support a comprehensive Middle East peace. Work must be done by those who seek to avoid the catastrophe that would result from a collapse of the peace process. This is a view shared by the president. Despite current difficulties, he remains committed for reasons of both national security and history to the successful completion of an Arab-Israeli peace.

IT OCCURRED TO ME...

Maladroit mail

By Ali Kassay

A FEW days ago I happened to be at a gathering in which mothers discussed the prospects of their children currently applying to university abroad. One mother, carried by her eagerness to ensure that examination results should arrive in time for the applications to be sent, paid extra money to the examining board, so that they would send the results to her by overnight post. "How could you do a silly thing like that?" exclaimed another, which seemed a peculiar reaction, until she related to us her experience with this remarkable service.

It seems that packages arriving by overnight post, are considered too important to be distributed by ordinary post offices. To receive them, one should go to the central depot on Khayyam Street. At this office, the lady had to display proof of identity to a succession of officials, each of whom took his time to compare the name on the notice with the name on the identity card, then the photograph on same, with the face of the bearer, before deciding that this matter was too complex for him, and referring it to a superior official.

So, after climbing the ladder of officialdom, rung by slow rung, our friend reached the director who decided that the buck stops here. He would take action. He brandished the letter, in a manner reminiscent of the prosecutor-general in a courtroom drama at the point where he exposes conclusive proof of guilt, causing the accused to collapse in a quivering mass, and demanded to know the source and contents of the letter.

Clearly an avid reader of surrealist literature, or a veteran at dealing with Jordanian officials, our friend did find such a request peculiar. She explained that the director was still in possession of the letter, so he would only need to look at the reverse side of the envelope to identify the sender. An alternative course of action, she advocated, would be to transfer the letter to its proper destination, whereupon she would share with the director the name of the sender, his address, as well as the content of the letter, should the director's time and his curiosity stretch that far.

This was not good enough for the director. His unerring instinct told him that anyone who receives mail of such urgency that the sender would invest in the face of overnight post is clearly up to no good. As a conscientious citizen, he was determined to expose the perfidious activities of such a miscreant. He refused to hand over the letter, but insisted that the would be recipient should tell him where it came from and what it said.

I do not remember how this impasse came to an end. However, our friend advised us on the procedure which she adopted to receive urgent mail from abroad: she has it sent to a friend in the United States, who then despatches it here with one of the private sector couriers. Which reminds me, I am still waiting for a birthday card which a tardy friend of mine foolishly sent to me by express post three years ago.

Israel authorises Ras Al Amud settlement building

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian experimental farm near Jericho in the West Bank.

The new housing project involved building 132 homes for Israelis in the Ras Al Amud neighbourhood where 11,000 Palestinians live, an Israeli spokesman said.

They would be the first homes build explicitely for Jews in the middle of Arab East Jerusalem.

The Israeli anti-settlement movement Peace Now called on the government not to act on the commission's position and announced a demonstration with Ras Al Amud residents for Friday.

Palestinian leaders warned the project could spark a crisis comparable to that which erupted in September after Israel opened a new entrance into an archaeological tunnel near Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem.

"This is an act of supreme provocation," said Hanan Ashrawi, higher education minister in the PNA and a member of the legislative council from East Jerusalem.

"This government is preparing the ground for further conflict and violence," she said, calling the Israeli decision "extemely dangerous."

"We will respond and there will be several responses," she said, accusing the right-wing government of Mr. Netanyahu of "violating the letter and spirit of peace agreements.

"This shows the true nature of this government which is not serious about pursuing peace," she said.

Ahmad Qouriea, speaker of the Palestinian legislative council, said: "This is an attempt to kill the peace process."

Hinting at possible Palestinian protests, Mr.Qouriea said: "It is very dangerous, and Israel should expect a reaction that will hurt the peace process."

The site in Ras Al Amud was purchased by a wealthy Miami businessman, Irving Moskowitz. He is one of the key donors behind Ateret Cohanim, a radical movement which promotes Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem.

Critics of the construction project complained that Interior Minister Eli Suissa, a member of the ultra-orthodox Shas Party, had attached the Moscovitz plan as a rider to a standing 15-year-old demand by Ras Al Amud's Palestinian residents for permission to build on properties they own in the neighborhood.

The ministry plan in effect authorises twice as much building for Jewish homes as for Palestinians, they said.

Ateret Cohanim and other groups seeking to assert Jewish control over East Jerusalem have been quietly buying up existing homes in various Arab quarters in recent years and plan to begin taking possession of them, officials said.

The Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot reported earlier this month that overseas Jews, mainly in the United States, had put up some $40 million to buy Arab homes in East Jerusalem and the Hebron, where 420 zealous settlers live amid 120,000 Palestinians.

Some 160,000 Israelis already live in East Jerusalem, but almost exclusively in separate communities mostly located in outlying parts of the city. Nearly as many Palestinians live in the eastern sector.

An Israeli official said meanwhile Mr. Netanyahu had refused a proposed visit by Egypt's Musa to mediate in peace negotiations with the Palestinians because it feels Cairo is partly responsible for the deadlock in the talks, a senior official told Israel radio Tuesday.

The official, identified as a "top Israeli diplomat," told Israel radio Mr. Musa had offered to shuttle between Israelis and Palestinians in an effort to resolve differences standing in the way of Israel's long-delayed troop withdrawal from Hebron.

But the offer was rejected because "Egypt is getting too involved in the peace process," the official was quoted as telling Israeli reporters at the Knesset following a meeting of the foreign affairs and defence committee attended by Foreign Minister David Levy.

Rather than accept a mission by Mr. Musa, Mr. Netanyahu decided to send his top diplomatic adviser, Dore Gold, to Cairo within the next few days for talks with Egyptian officials, the official said.

Mr. Netanyahu's office confirmed that Mr. Gold would discuss the deadlocked Israeli-Palestinian negotiations with Osama Al Baz, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser.

A spokesman said Mr. Gold's visit was decided during a phone call by Mr. Mubarak to Mr. Netanyahu on Monday. Israel army radio said the visit would probably take place Thursday.

Scuffles broke out when Israeli soldiers stopped the Palestinian agriculture minister and other protestors from blocking Jewish settlers bulldozing a Palestinian experimental farm.

Minister Saleh led the Palestinian protestors who stood in front of the bulldozers when settlers tried to level land on the Wadi Al Faria farm in Jiftlik, north of Jericho, witnesses said.

Israeli soldiers pulled away the protestors and small fistfights broke out. The army then declared the area a closed military zone and ordered the Palestinians out, Palestinian radio said. No arrests were reported.

"We will not leave this area until the settlers do," Mr. Saleh said before entering into negotiations with the Israeli military commander for the area to resolve the situation.

Palestinians had used the farm for years for agricultural testing and training farmers. The Palestinian agriculture ministry says it was due to receive control of it under the 1995 Oslo self-rule accords.

But the Israeli authorities refused to hand it over and in December 1995 barred any Palestinian use of the farm.

Israel and the PNA meanwhile agreed to extend for another month the mandate of unarmed Norwegian observers in Hebron, officials said.

Israeli and Palestinian officials agreed to the mandate extension at a meeting late Monday, the officials said.

The observer force, known as the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), deployed early this year in preparation for Israel's troop withdrawal from most of the city as called for under the Oslo peace accords.

Majority of Israelis favour Beilin-Abbas plan — poll

The Jerusalem Post

MEMBER of Knesset (MK) Mr. Yossi Beilin, who last week declared his candidacy for the Labour Party leadership has announced the findings of an opinion poll that supports the understanding he reached with Palestinian Authority official Mahmoud Abbas, which he says could serve as the basis for a permanent settlement.

The main clauses of the Beilin-Abbas plan calls for Israel to annex the large blocs of Jewish settlements in return for giving the Palestinians an area close to the Egyptian border and demilitarised Palestinian state, Beilin told a press conference. Jewish settlers in non-annexed areas would retain Israeli citizenship, but live under Palestinian sovereignty with suitable security protection, the Isaeli Army would stay on the Jordanian border and there would be additional security arrangements, such as warning stations.

Palestinian refugees would not be allowed to return to Israel, but could return to the Palestinian state; and Jerusalem would remain united as the Israeli capital, while the Palestinian capital would be Al Quds, based on Abu Dis, which is outside Jerusalem's boundaries. The mosques in the Haram Al Sharif Complex would not be under Israeli sovereignty and would be run by the Palestinians.

The survey found some support for the plan even among those who voted for Benyamin Netanyahu, and just over 50 per cent said they were either very much in favour or fairly in favour.

Professor Efi Ya'ar, who initiated and implemented the survey through Modi'in Ezrahi, has said he is interested in carrying out a similar survey among Palestinians.

The survey was carried out among 1,046 Hebrew-speaking adults and did not include Arabs, kibbutz members, or settlers. A slight majority of those polled had voted for Netanyahu.

Of the total sample, 11.5 per cent were very much in favour; 42.5 per cent fairly in favour; 17.2 per cent fairly against; 12.4 per cent very against; and the rest had no opinion. Of those who said they were fairly in favour, 34.1 per cent had voted for Netanyahu.

Israeli warplanes attack South Lebanese villages

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Israeli aircraft attacked villages in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, but there was no immediate word on casualties or damage.

Helicopter gunships strafed positions in the afternoon after Lebanese guerrillas attacked Israeli commandos near an Israeli-occupied border enclave in the south, Hizbollah said.

Israeli warplanes fired six missiles at about the same time at positions further east, the Iranian-backed guerrilla group said.

An Israeli army spokesman said Israeli planes attacked targets in the afternoon after guerrillas were spotted in the area. The aircraft returned safely to base, the spokesman said.

Neither Hizbollah nor the army spokesman mentioned casualties.

Earlier in the day, the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, visited the occupied border enclave in the south and met with militia commander Antoine Lahd to renew Israel's support.

A five-man military tribunal in Beirut Friday sentenced the 67-year-old commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia to death for committing treason while helping patrol Israeli-occupied territory in the south.

Mr. Mordechai met with Mr. Lahd at the militia's headquarters in Marjayoun, the main town in the enclave.

The visit comes on the heels of a sharp rebuke from the Israeli defence ministry, which slammed the death sentence as the "ridiculous" result of a "showcase trial."

Randa Habib's corner

Separation of powers — wronging some?

THERE HAS been much talk recently about the need to separate the executive and the legislative branches in the country. This means that deputies will no more take ministerial posts, a duality which hinders the performance of both tasks. I do not know how you feel about that, but I, personally, think that this is really unfair.

After all, only 50 per cent of the 80 elected representatives of the people have been or are currently cabinet members. In other words, 40 deputies enjoy today the title of "Maali" and will keep it for the rest of their lives, in terms of prestige and pension.

Have you followed the recent election for the Lower House speakership? If you did, you must have noticed ahead of each cast of vote that the "Maalis" were basking in the glory of their title, while the plain "Saadat" had a more humble attitude.

So what about those remaining 40 "Saadat" who will never win the title of "Maali"?

Is it fair that now, that their turn is coming close, regulations will be changed in such a way that it will block any chance for them of becoming ministers, riding Mercedeses with a special driver, lifting their heads up high, and getting more friends (or semi-friends) than they ever dreamt of in their entire life?

And come to think of it, where goes the ambition and farsightedness of candidates who run for elections, eyeing a parliament seat as a springboard for a long-sought cabinet post, any post, even that of a minister of state without portfolio?

Without this opportunity, what else is there for them as plain deputies? Taking care of the problems of their respective constituencies? Representing the interests of the people, and not only those who voted for them? Studying carefully new laws and means to develop Jordan in all walks of life?

Seeking to become a deputy just to fulfill those tasks, short of clinching a ministerial post, is just not worth it. If it were up to me, I would drop the search for a parliament seat and save time and money spent on mansaf, the focus of the election campaigns.

Jordan-EU partnership to be signed in early 1997

(Continued from page 12)

rights (IPR). During the early stages of negotiations the EU granted Jordan a five-year grace period to formulate and implement IPR laws.

Jordan asked that the EU be consistent with what has been offered by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which set a deadline of 10 years for Jordan to review, rewrite and enforce internationally acceptable IPR laws, particularly in "certain sub-sectors," said Dr. Ammari. He did not elaborate.

However, it is widely upheld that Jordan seeks to protect its multi-million dinar pharmaceutical industry which accounted for $120 million in exports last year.

The EU has since reduced the IPR grace period to three years, and appears determined not to make any compromise.

"Jordan would like to get the longest grace period possible because pharmaceutical production takes a long time," said Mr. Gazzo. "But to give more than three years will kill the benefit of the discussions."

Jordan is also negotiating accession to the WTO, and officials are unsure of what could be achieved in terms of IPR.

"We may not be able to reach the same agreement with the WTO, and we may reach an agreement for a shorter period," Dr. Ammari said. "Whatever we agree with the WTO will be binding to us in relation to our agreement with the EU."

Jordan and the EU are looking for a proper mechanism to solve the problem of third country nationals travelling to Europe. He added that some of these people are sent back to the country they left from because of the lack of proper travel documents

That will mean that third country nationals who travel to Europe illegally from Jordan are sent back to the country. The Kingdom objects to this practice and is trying to find a new mechanism that will not jeopardise its interests.

"It is a matter of understanding (between Jordan and the EU). We have to find a proper system and wording for this problem," said Mr. Gazzo.

Some officials argued that Jordan's gain in signing the partnership agreement with the EU will be political and not economic.

"We have to give the signal to the World Bank and everyone else that Jordan is ready for free-trade, but we are not getting anything beneficial to Jordan," said an official who did not want to be identified.

Mr. Gazzo countered that the Europe's economic interest in Jordan in the short term is little compared to that in North Africa, but Jordan will witness major improvements in the medium and long terms.

He said that North Africa has an advantage over Jordan in its direct trade with the EU, and added that the EU is "trying to put Jordan in the legal basis for development in services and production."

However, the European official said that Europe is conscious of Jordan's efforts to improve the economy to ready itself for partnership with the EU.

Jordan has reduced its budget deficit and debt burden as well as introduced new legislation to attract foreign investment.

However, Mr. Gazzo said Jordan needs to "put its act together" in order to attract more foreign investments and capital.

Officials say the Kingdom is taking all the necessary measurements and introducing new legislation to improve the performance of its economy and render its investment climate more attractive to both local and foreign investors.

The 1995 Barcelona Declaration called for the establishment of association agreements between the EU and countries of the Mediterranean region, with the aim of creating the world's largest free-trade zone by 2010.

The Barcelona process also aims at creating long-term stability based on three pillars: a political and security cooperation, economic and financial cooperation and cooperation in social, cultural and human affairs.

The EU has carried out a policy of assisting Jordan in its structural adjustment programme which it started in 1989.

It has adopted the MEDA programme which allocated a budget of European Currency Units (ECUs) 4.6 billion ($5.8 million) in grants for the Mediterranean countries for the year 1996-1999.

The EU and Jordan have recently signed a financial agreement under which the EU allocated ECUs 100 million ($128 million) in support of Jordan's balance of payments.

"I feel that the association agreement with the EU is beneficial to Jordan," said Dr. Ammari. "We cannot live in isolation, the world is moving towards globalisation and integration and Jordan is progressing more than any other country (in the region)."

Muasher begins Israel visit

(Continued from page 1)

countries signed a peace treaty in 1994, was due to meet here with Foreign Minister Levy and Defence Minister Mordechai early Wednesday and see Mr. Netanyahu on Friday, Israeli and Jordanian officials said.

He was also scheduled to hold talks with opposition leaders, including Arab-Israeli members of parliament, and other prominent Israelis, a spokeswoman at the Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv said.

His visit was organised at Jordan's request.

Man hanged for murder

(Continued from page 1)

In his confession and testimony in court, Abu Shuaib said he had to kill Mrs. Majdalawi because she was constantly pressing him to marry her daughter Rand.

"I wasn't ready and I did not have money to get married, and the only was to end her (the victim) nagging was to kill her," Abu Shuaib, a house painter, told the court.

A Royal decree was issued last month approving the death sentence after his case was reviewed by the Court of Cassation which ratified the ruling of the criminal court.

On June 18, two convicts were hanged at the same prison for two murders committed in 1994 and 1995.

Last year, eight people were put to death in Jordan for various crimes adjudicated by the criminal court.

Meanwhile, the criminal court on Tuesday sentenced two men to death for the murder of a 22-year-old Egyptian national in the Jordan Valley in October 1995.

Tuesday's sentencing brought the number of people sentenced to death in 1996 to 23.

The court tribunal, presided over by Judge Kamal Falah, and including judges Ahmad Momani and Abdul Hamid Sa'ed, found Mahmoud Mohammad Asswan, 38 and Kaboud Hamdan Rasslan, 20, both Egyptian, guilty of murdering Jamal Mohammad Abu Zeinab in a farm in Ghor Safi on Oct. 3.

According to the prosecution, all three men worked together in the same farm for three months.

"Asswan and Rasslan started having problems with Abu Zeinab one month before the incident, over a gas cylinder and they plotted to kill him," the court transcripts said.

On the night of the murder, the court said, the two men, carrying shovels, went to the house were the victim lived and they both struck him several times on his head killing him instantly.

The two then dragged his body to a nearby farm and buried him there and smothered over the ground with shrubs.

Hebron deployment not an end in itself — Crown Prince

(Continued from page 1)

agreement raised great hopes among those who care about legitimacy in the region," Dr. Barbish said, but those hopes are now being shaken by the hardline policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's government.

Declaring the opening of the autumn meeting of the AKM, Director of the meetings Abu Bakr Kadiri called on the audience to "exert all efforts...to formulate a practical and implementable proposal to submit to the Arab Nation in order to achieve the implementation of U.N. resolutions and the Oslo agreement."

Dr. Kadiri said that the current phase of the peace process "requires from the intellectual elite of Arab Islamic countries to propose a solution to overcome the obstacles" currently facing the resumption of the peace negotiations.

Calling for "full Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories, including Jerusalem," he accused Israel of adopting "a line which goes against peace."

Dr. Kadiri noted that the September 1993 Oslo agreement between Israel and the Palestinians was also co-signed by the U.S. and Russia, in their capacity as the co-sponsors of the Mideast peace process.

As such, all Israeli violations of the Oslo agreement should be considered as perpetrated against all signatories and dealt with as such, Dr. Kadiri said, adding that "the U.S. cannot turn a blind eye to this (current) dangerous situation."

Stating that the Arab stand in the peace negotiations is based on the principle of land for peace, upheld by U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Oslo agreement itself, Dr. Karidi called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

More than 20 papers focusing on different aspects of the Mideast peace process and addressing various regional issues such as water and the future status of Jerusalem will be presented during the five working sessions of the symposium.

Among the participants attending the event are: U.S. astronaut and first man to walk on the moon Neil Armstrong, Anatoly Andrei Gromyko, son of the late Soviet foreign minister and president, Andrei Gromyko, Egyptian lawyer and former minister of information and youth under President Anwar Sadat, Kamal Abul Majd, Moroccan historian Abdul Wahab Ben Masour, advisor to King Hassan II of Morocco Mohammad Alal Si Nasser, former director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Amado Muktarembo, water expert Idris Tahaq, and a former oil minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and now advisor to Sheik Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, Mana Saed Al Oteibeh.

Separation of executive and legislative powers — legal aspects

(Continued from page 1)

in parliament becomes prime minister. The opposition forms a shadow government and ministers are accountable to the elected parliament.

The Jordanian Constitution lies somewhere between the two.

Jordan is a constitutional monarchy. The legislative authority is divided into two houses, a Lower House elected by the people and an Upper House appointed by the King. The Lower House represents the people, while the Senate is seen as "the council of the King." The two chambers work on legislation but only the confidence of the Lower House is needed by the government.

But it is not only in constitutional terms that the government system in Jordan is different form other constitutional monarchies like Britain. The maturity and strength of political parties and the nature of the experience and tradition in government also influence the way in which the two branches of government work together.

In Britain, a political party system is well entrenched as parties have had years to evolve and parliamentarians are elected on party platforms. Political parties in Jordan, however, were only legalised in 1992 and election to the House is ensured through popularity and tribal affiliations. Consequently, no one political party, or coalition of parties in Jordan secures a majority of House seats to win the right to forming the government through its ability to deny any other government a vote of confidence.

Supporters of separating the two branches of government cite this reality in calling for a separation of power.

"We need to practise separation for the coming years until a solid party system and modern electoral law are developed," former Prime Minister and a current Deputy Taher Masri said.

Whether Jordan opts for changing or continuing the current system, however, is not expected to be decided before the resignation of the current government and the formation of a new one after the parliamentary elections, scheduled for late 1997.

The government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti is expected to resign, or be reshuffled in March to allow deputies among its ranks who want to run for reelection to prepare for the polls. The new government will oversee the elections.

Saddam opens oil taps

(Continued from page 1)

government under the oil-for-food deal.

The contract was signed recently in Bahgdad was awaiting approval from the United Nations, it said.

France meanwhile hailed the end to the six-year ban on Iraqi oil exports and said it would lobby for a complete end to sanctions once Iraq had fulfilled conditions set by the U.N. Security Council.

Foreign ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt said the U.N. clearance for the deal was an excellent outcome and called for the humanitarian aspect of the deal to be instituted soon.

"That said, Resolution 986 (governing the deal) is not an end in itself. It is not a substitute for the lifting of sanctions which today weigh on Iraq," Mr. Rummelhardt said.

"As soon as Iraq has fulfilled the conditions set by Security Council resolutions, our objective remains to arrive at a complete lifting of sanctions which will mark this country's return to the international community," he said.

Prospects brighten for WTO accord on infotech

SINGAPORE (R) — Brighter prospects of agreeing a lucrative accord on free trade in technologies buoyed big powers on Tuesday at a World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting still clouded by rows on issues from cheap labour to corruption.

The United States and the European Union (EU) announced progress in resolving their differences over a pact to eliminate tariffs on a wide range of information technology, acting U.S. trade representative Charlene Barshefsky told reporters.

"We have made progress," Ms. Barshefsky said before a meeting of the big four major trade powers — the United States, the EU, Japan and Canada — on the sidelines of the first WTO ministerial conference.

EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan also told reporters that breakfast talks between him and Ms. Barshefsky on the second day of the conference, which ends on Friday, had gone well.

Asked whether an agreement was at hand, Sir Brittan said: "Not yet, but we are making good progress."

However, some developing nations remained opposed to the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) to remove all tariffs in trade in computers and microchips in a sector valued at $600 billion a year by the turn of the century.

"I doubt if there will be concrete agreements coming out this week," Philippine Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Bautista told reporters when asked about prospects for an ITA by Friday. "It's too fast for us."

Host Singapore and Malaysia have said a timetable of tariff-free trade by 2000 is too ambitious a goal.

Signals from negotiators left little doubt the major traders were aiming for agreement this week — perhaps by Wednesday.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda told the second day of the conference he hoped "ardently...that we will have an agreement as the most significant achievement of this ministerial conference in the area of trade liberalisation."

The 128 full delegations from WTO member countries and ministers and officials from nearly 30 others waiting to be admitted to the organisation have also heard ringing appeals for progress to a telecoms liberalisation pact.

Negotiators at WTO headquarters in Geneva face a deadline to finalise a deal among some 50 countries by mid-February.

This sector, heavily protected in many emerging economies, is estimated to be worth well over $500 billion annually.

Battles raged behind the scenes between North and South over corruption in trade agriculture, investment rules and competition policy and Washington served notice it would push to get the explosive issue of labour rights onto the WTO agenda.

Signs of consensus on discussing competition policy emerged at a meeting of 25 delegation heads, including the United States, Japan, the EU and many Asian nations and chaired by WTO Secretary-General Renato Ruggiero, a Japanese official said.

"No one was totally opposed to taking up the issue," the official said. "We are moving towards a compromise."

Trying to disperse the storm clouds and counter lobbying by Western-based aid groups, WTO chief economist Richard Blackhurst insisted that the poorest nations stood to reap major benefit from the freeing of global commerce.

"There has been a lot of talk about the least-developed countries (LDCs) being net losers in this process. The reality is very different," Mr. Blackhurst told a news briefing.

Ministers and their aides from different areas of the globe were meeting in conclave to try to hammer out the final text of a declaration to wrap up the gathering of the two-year-old body on Friday. Sixteen of the 20 paragraphs have been agreed.

Officials said negotiating on whether the declaration, meant to point the WTO down the free trade path into the 21st century, should include any reference at all to the labour issue was being left to last.

Several key emerging economies — including India, Malaysia and Indonesia — insist there should be no mention, arguing that even a neutral phrasing would suggest work conditions were a subject for the WTO.

Saudis to keep spending curbs despite oil bonanza

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia is set to announce another tight budget in 1997 although a surge in oil prices this year has brought it sufficient funds to wipe out the deficit, bankers said Tuesday.

The world's leading oil producer and exporter will likely set spending at around $40 billion, the average annual expenditure it has projected during its latest five-year development plan which ends in 1999, they said.

"Saudi Arabia has privately projected a five-year spending of about $200 billion in the current development plan," a Saudi banker said. "I don't think it will exceed that limit just because it earned more money this year. Repeated statements by Saudi officials over the past months have reflected the kingdom's serious intention to tackle the deficit."

Saudi Arabia, sitting atop a quarter of the world's proven oil reserves, is projected to earn some $8 billion in extra income this year because of an increase of around $3 a barrel in the prices of its crude. Bankers expect its oil income to climb to around $39.3 billion from $31.5 billion in 1995, while its non-oil revenues, including petrochemicals, will rise to $8 billion from $6.4 billion.

The Gulf state usually assumes a price of between $14 and $16 in preparing its annual budget. The projection of a low price is because Riyadh wants to guard against any unexpected sharp change in crude prices.

"The price projection in 1997 will be similar. Saudi planners can not be sure of the price trends through the year and that is why we expect its expenditure to remain equivalent to 1996," a Riyadh-based banker said.

The Saudi government took advantage of the surplus income over the past month to pay nearly $1.06 billion in debt to bankers and about $1.5 billion to farmers.

Part of the money was also set aside for the international reserves, which have steadily grown over the past two years.

Bankers expect the reserves to exceed $12 billion by the end of 1996 from $11 billion in May and as low as $7 billion in 1994.

Saudi Arabia, which produces around eight million barrels per day of oil, has projected a budget shortfall of $4.9 billion in 1996 as revenues were forecast at around $35.1 billion.

The shortfall, nearly a fifth of its 1991 level, could nominally disappear by the end of the year because of the surge in income, bankers said.

Saudi Arabia began to adopt tight fiscal policies after it came under fire by the World Bank and other institutions over its swelling budget deficit caused by dwindling oil export earnings and huge costs for the 1991 Gulf war.

Netanyahu determined to cut budget

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that a proposed 1.8 billion shekel ($560 million) cut from Israel's 1997 budget was vital to the recovery of Israel's flagging economy.

"We prepared a budget that gives us a real economic future and deals first with the huge national overdraft that the previous government left us, more than $5 billion," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Foreign Minister David Levy and three other ministers representing low-income constituencies voted against the cuts during a cabinet vote Monday.

The budget must now be approved by the Knesset, Israel's parliament, where Mr. Netanyahu's ruling coalition controls 66 of 120 seats.

"This is vital to the Israeli economy," Mr. Netanyahu said on Israel Radio. "The burden will fall for the most part on the more established classes of the country."

The opposition parties are expected to vote against the budget and some members of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition have also protested the planned cuts.

The government will fall if the budget is not approved by Dec. 31. "I am completely determined to get this budget passed," Mr. Netanyahu said, adding that he would sit with each minister until they agreed to support the cuts.

Officials have said the proposed cuts are needed because of a dramatic slowdown in the economy — which is partly blamed on the increased Arab-Israeli tensions since Mr. Netanyahu was elected in May.

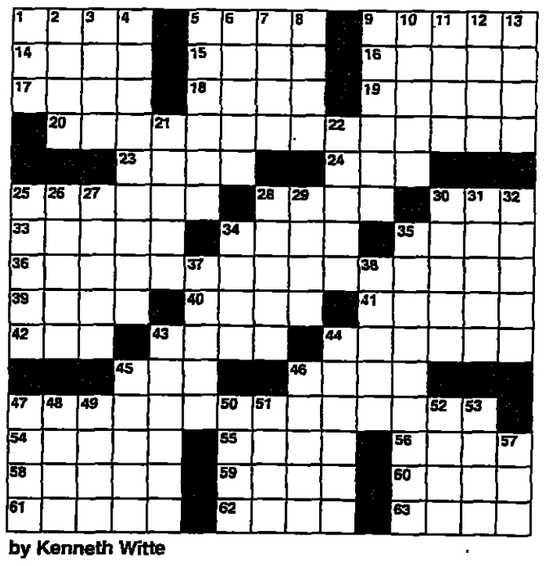
Deficit in U.S. current account trade hits record $47.9 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The deficit in the broadest measure of U.S. trade surged to $48 billion from July through September, the worst performance in history, as American exports fell for the first time in three years. The U.S. Commerce Department reported Tuesday that the imbalance in the U.S. current account increased 19.3 per cent from a second quarter deficit of $40.2 billion.

American exports of goods had turned in a string of gains, but the $3.2 billion dip in the third quarter was certain to raise concerns that continued sluggishness overseas and the rising value of the U.S. dollar were starting to cut into export gains. A higher foreign exchange value for the dollar makes U.S. goods more expensive in overseas markets. Tuesday's report did not slow the surge on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average was up more than 32 points by late Tuesday, adding to its 82-point gain on Monday. At the same time, U.S. merchandise exports fell 2.1 per cent to $149.9 billion, marking the first quarterly setback in U.S. merchandise exports since the summer quarter of 1993.

The U.S. current account is the broadest measure of foreign trade, tracking not only sales of goods but also services, investment flows and foreign aid.

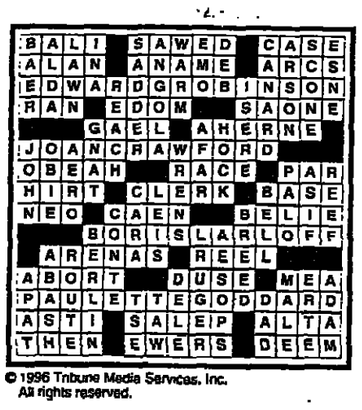
THE Daily Crossword



ACROSS
1 Boston follower
5 Young men
9 Improve
14 Gulf War country
15 Congregational cry
16 Fracas
17 Beige
18 Hindu garment
19 Caravan stops
20 Niven/Wyman film
23 Keep a — on (control)
24 Comic Burrows
25 "Peter Pan" creator
28 Dr. Zhivago's love
30 Total
33 Sigourney Weaver film
34 Without
35 Rational
36 What SWAK means
39 Phoenix five
40 Uncommon
41 Yearns
42 Giant great
43 Repair
44 Guard
45 Tropical snake
46 Noted anthropologist
47 Baldwin/Ryan film
54 Puzzle
55 Red planet
56 Straw follower, sometimes
58 Woodwinds
59 — facto
60 Verve
61 Parsonage
62 Juvenile, perhaps
63 Tear

DOWN
1 May be in the sky?
2 Killer whale
3 Playground
4 Chipmunks' kin
5 Movie dog
6 Vigorously
7 Hollywood's Bruce or Laura
8 Fit of anger
9 Protozoan
10 Gettysburg victor
11 Miss Maxwell
12 — do-well
13 Escritoire
21 Fishing net
22 Rough
25 Choir member
26 Northern native
27 Laughing
28 Scottish landowner
29 Poker stake
30 — Vitus' dance
31 Four-time Indy winner
32 Like Oscar Madison?
34 Type of dive or song
35 Cousteau, at times
37 Fear
38 Upright, nautically
43 Hair product
44 Salt
45 Simon's "Biloxi —"
46 One-time senator from Oregon
47 School affair
48 Singer McEntire
49 Black, poetically
50 Discharge
51 Record
52 Flounder kin
53 Musial
57 Appropriately placed word

by Kenneth Witte



© 1996 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates — Prices as at 10/12/96 18:49

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.5531	0.6053	1.3270	113.21	1.3561	1531.50	1.7412	5.2525
DE Mark	0.6439	-	0.3893	0.8540	72.89	0.8729	985.96	1.1215	3.3818
GB Sterling	1.6521	2.5660	-	2.1925	187.05	2.2404	2530.38	2.8778	8.6775
CH Franc	0.7536	116.95	0.4556	-	85.33	1.0213	1154.11	131.22	3.9552
JP Yen	0.0088	1.3715	0.5340	1.1716	-	1.1975	13.52	153.81	4.6382
CA Dollar	0.7374	1.1342	0.4438	0.9588	1.20	-	1124.34	1.2716	3.8425
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0127	0.3944	0.0865	1355.20	0.8845	-	11.36	3.4261
NL Guilder	0.5743	89.13	0.3471	76.17	64.93	0.7783	879.00	-	3.0145
FR Franc	0.1904	0.2955	0.1151	25.2502	21.53	0.2581	33.15	33.1500	-

Energy

Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	24.70	24.90
W. Texas	25.00	25.10
Bony	24.70	24.90
Dubai	22.00	22.25
UL Gas	210.00	212.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4144	0.16141	0.35416	30.206
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.42308	0.1648	0.36161	30.8414
KW Dinar	3.3367	5.18403	2.01979	4.43262	377.929
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.12201	1.60565	3.52361	300.481
CY Pound	2.1216	3.2961	1.2835	2.8158	240.229

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	368.3	368.8
Silver (oz's)	4.8	4.82
Platinum (oz's)	367	368
AL (3 Months)	1508	1509
CU (3 Months)	2126	2127
Zinc (3 Months)	1041	1042
Lead (3 Months)	667	668
NI (3 Months)	6770	6780

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period / Cncy	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1 Year
USD	5.62	5.37	5.47	5.52	5.58
GBP	6.18	6.23	6.41	6.50	6.75
JPY	0.27	0.28	0.34	0.40	0.41
DEM	3.21	3.10	3.10	3.00	3.18
FRF	3.33	3.36	3.38	3.38	3.45
CHF	2.15	2.13	1.96	1.96	2.18
ITL	7.65	7.26	6.86	6.64	6.51

Main Equity Indicies

Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls
NewYork	DOW JONES	6484.06	20.12	0.31	6490.4	6463.94	6463.94
Newyork	S&P 500	751.18	1.42	0.19	752.57	749.54	749.76
London	FT-SE 100	4026.7	15.1	0.38	4043.2	4025	4011.6
Tokyo	NIKKIE 225	20822.12	218.41	1.06	20853.6	20675.7	20603.7
Paris	CAC 40	2248.89	-6.95	-0.31	2271.17	2240.51	2255.84
Frankfurt	DAX	2891	33.76	1.18	2893.3	2882.23	2857.24

Energy

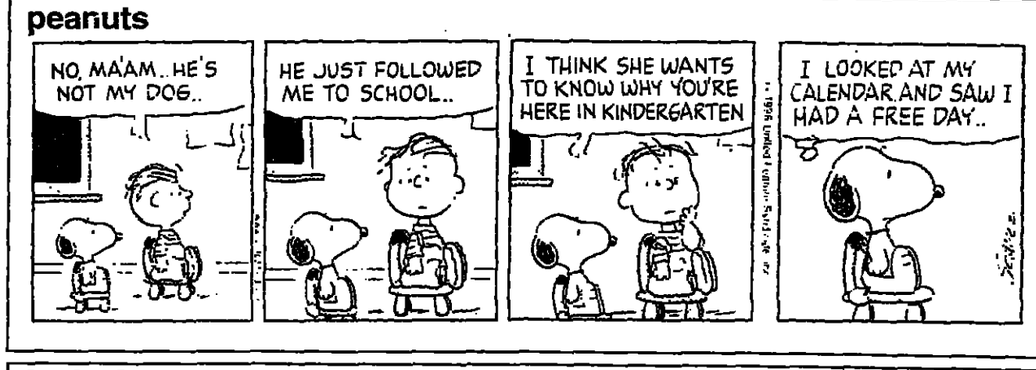
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	110.83	Spot
Cocoa ($/ton)	1376	Spot
Sugar ($/ton)	302.4	Spot
Wheat ($/ton)	121	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	20.57	Spot
Tea (stg/kg)	123	Spot
Barley ($/bsh)	2.19	Spot
Rice ($/ton)	470	Spot

* JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1708	1.1767
DE Mark	0.4547	0.457
CH Franc	0.5318	0.5345
FR Franc	0.1346	0.1353
JP Yen	0.6226	0.6257
NL Guilder	0.4054	0.4074
IT Lira	0.4619	0.4642

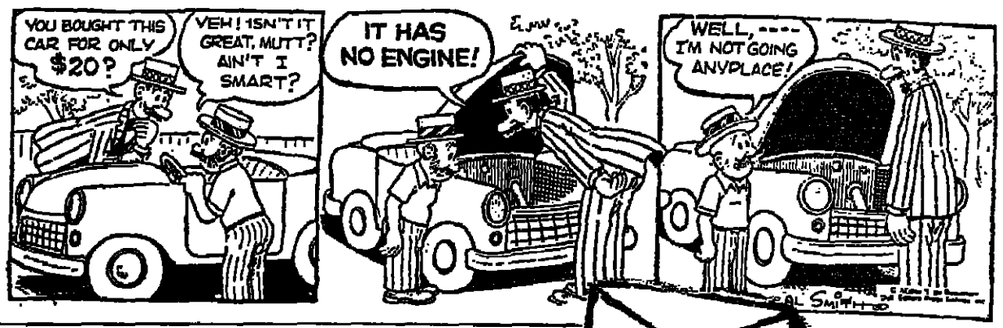
* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

peanuts



Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be sure you know what is expected of you today concerning your business activities and what necessary steps need to be taken. Contact those in power. Take no risks later tonight where your credit is concerned.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A new contact today has a new project which seems promising, so study every detail and make the best of what is provided. Later this evening you can proceed with the endeavour, since you have been given the green light.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Home situations are not as they appear to be today, so find out the truth for your own peace of mind. Try not to spend too much money on amusements or you could find yourself short when the time is necessary.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 23) Check messages and calls today and be sure they are on the up-and-up. Straighten out a family disagreement so that won't be any ill feelings between any of those individuals who live under your roof and thereby maintain harmony.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study that financial matter well today before you carry through with it so that you don't make any mistakes in judgment. Don't waste time with a boring person who has not regards for what is important in life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It's not wise today to attend an affair with a close friend, so postpone it until a more appropriate time. Set up a better budget instead, so that you will have extra funds when there is a lean time in your life.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Do nothing today concerning a private worry, since the matter will simply disappear in the days ahead. Don't try to fool your mate in some way or there would be a greater difficulty. Spend time with good friends who are funny.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You want to get your views across at almost any cost today, however let them work out naturally instead so that all of your efforts will be quite productive. Later this evening you can have good friends into your residence.

SAGITTARIUS: (ovember 22 to December 21) Be sure you understand the nature of you career activities today and handle them well, so that you will get noticed by those in authority. Use tact in personal pursuits and thereby you can make much progress towards your success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your hunches are not up to snuff today so be sure to follow every detail concerning your career activities. Be careful in handling your credit so that you can meet all of your obligations. Be tactful about a worldly matter.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make sure you know what your mate desires of you today before you waste your energy in the pursuit of non-productive activities. Later this evening you can get together knowledgeable people and discuss business activities.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Listen to the grievances of a fellow associate and do something about it before you carry on with other affairs. Later tonight you can get together with close friends and have some fun getting together at enjoyable activities.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Exporters, farmers demand amendment to trade protocol

** FARMERS AND exporters have issued an appeal to the concerned authorities to amend the Jordanian-Lebanese agricultural calendar which governs the exchange of produce between the two countries. The farmers and exporters in particular called on the authorities to coordinate with the Lebanese government and allow the export of Jordanian tomatoes to the Arab country starting Dec. 15 instead of Jan. 1, 1997 as stipulated by the joint calendar.

The appeal was made following a sharp decline in the price of tomatoes in the local market due to the surplus in produce. Sources at the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) attributed the surplus to the opportune weather conditions prevailing in the Kingdom and the increase in the area of lands planted with the crop.

In another development, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jordan Valley Farmers Union Mamdouh Affash denied reports saying the AMO has turned back refrigerated trucks heading for Lebanon. Mr. Affash said the union made the necessary contacts with the AMO and found out that the reports were baseless.

In its monthly report, meanwhile, the AMO said Jordan's exports of fruits and vegetables in November totalled 35,700 tonnes worth about JD 8.2 million.

According to the report, vegetables constituted 63.6 of the total, earning Jordan JD 5.3 million, while fruits constituted 36.4 per cent, valued at JD 2.9 million.

The United Arab Emirates was the biggest importer of Jordan's produce, absorbing 35.4 per cent of the exports, followed in the second place by Saudi Arabia which took 25.1 per cent, Kuwait 19.7 per cent, Qatar 9.4 per cent, Bahrain by 8.4 per cent, Lebanon by 1.2 per cent and other foreign countries by 0.7 per cent (Al Dustour).

Ministry to prepare study on reducing port tariffs

** MINISTER OF Transport Nasser Lawzi said his ministry was about to prepare a study in cooperation with the Jordanian Exporters Society (JES) on the prospect of reducing tariffs charged at the Port of Aqaba. Mr. Lawzi said there was a recent reduction of tariffs and any other reduction will not be made in the near future. "We are just studying the issue to increase the port's competitiveness with other region ports," said the minister (Al Aswaq).

Dinar's exchange rate stable, Fariz emphasises

** GOVERNOR OF the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Ziad Fariz stressed the stability of the Jordanian dinar exchange rates. At a meeting of the Lower House of Parliament's Finance Committee, Dr. Fariz said the CBJ's reserves of hard currencies was on the rise as a result of the monetary policies adopted by the ban. (Al Aswaq).

BCCI creditors get $1.35 billion pay-out

LONDON (AFP) — Around 30,000 creditors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) are receiving a pay-out of $1.35 billion, a quarter of the money they lost when the bank failed, liquidators in London said Tuesday.

These are the first payments to creditors since the bank collapsed five years ago amid allegations of fraud. When was shut down by worldwide regulatory action in July 1991, it owed $10 billion to 250,000 creditors and depositors worldwide.

A court in Luxembourg in October gave the green light to the liquidators to reimburse 24.5 per cent of creditors' losses.

The payments will only be made to former clients of BCCI residing in the 130 countries which accepted the liquidators' proposals. Others, such as Germany, China, Japan or Bahrain, are still considering whether to take part, said a spokesman for accountancy firm Deloitte and Touche, the main liquidators.

The money was sent out by cheque and electronic transfer on Tuesday from London and Luxembourg.

In addition to this $1.35 billion, a further $1.3 billion is available for reimbursements representing 24.5 per cent of creditors' losses in other countries, if these states sign up to the international agreement, the spokesman said.

The liquidators hope to make another payment of 10 per cent or more within the next 12 to 16 months, taking the total compensation payment to at least 34.5 per cent of creditors' losses.

Germany to finance oceanology project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The German government will finance a joint Jordanian-German research and teaching project in the field of oceanography and investigating life in the crevasses of the coral reefs, according to a press release issued by the German embassy here.

The project will be implemented by the Marine Science Station in Aqaba in cooperation with the German Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology in Bremen.

The embassy also said the German Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Technology has made a JD 340,000 contribution to Jordan to carry out marine projects aimed at integrating Jordan into the Red Sea projects, which also cover neighbouring states.

The embassy said the Red Sea projects are to be completed by December 1998, that is two years from now.

Tunisia priority sectors will pay less for loans

TUNIS (R) — Interest rates on loans to priority sectors of the Tunisian economy such as agriculture are expected to drop by more than one percentage point, banking sources said on Tuesday.

The Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) last month cut by one percentage point the monetary market (Interbank) rate to 7.8125 per cent, and later told the commercial banks they were free to set their own lending rates.

The cut was immediately passed on for lending to non-priority sectors but it remained unclear how this would apply for rates on loans to priority sectors such as agriculture, export financing, handicrafts, and small and medium enterprises.

Central bank officials said that if the banks do not widen their margins when passing on the cut they expect rates for priority sectors to be cut by 0.875 to 1.625 percentage points for short-term credits and by 1.375 to 2.625 percentage points for medium-term credits. Before the monetary market rate cut, priority sector rates were between 10 and 10.25 per cent for short-term credits and 10 to 11 per cent for medium-term credits. Commercial banks were obliged to reserve 10 per cent of their resources for loans to priority sectors.

Korean business delegation to arrive in Amman next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — A business delegation representing South Korea's Kumi City, one of the country's main industrial cities, will arrive in Amman Dec. 16.

The delegation, led by Deputy Mayor Nam Hyo-Chae, represents seven industrial companies looking for ways to market their products in the Kingdom.

During its visit, the delegation members will meet with Jordanian counterparts at the Forte Grand Hotel to openly explore and discuss areas of mutual interest, the prospect of launching joint ventures, exchanging know-how as well as establishing long-term business relations.

Jordanian-Korean economic and trade relations were continuously improving and several Korean companies established joint ventures with Jordanian companies to produce home appliances through transferring Korean technology and know-how to the Kingdom.

In 1995, Korean exports to the Kingdom, consisting mainly of automobiles, electronics, electrical products, machineries, spare parts and textiles, totalled about $141 million, while Jordan's exports to Korea in the same year, largely potash, phosphate and Dead Sea products, totalled about $ 50 million.

Mr. Nam will visit the Amman Industrial City and meet with Director General of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation Assem Hindawi for talks on scopes of cooperation between Kumi City and the Sahab Industrial Estate.

Kumi City accommodates six industrial complexes and more than 800 manufacturing companies which employ more than 76,000 workers.

Most of the city's companies are small or medium-sized and are seeking to establish long-term business relations, transferring know-how and making overseas joint ventures like the Samsung and GoldStar Factories in Jordan.

The city is famous for products such as textiles, colour television sets, communication equipment, VCRs, CRTs, monitors and many other products. Exports from the city in 1995 exceeded $9.2 billion while its imports totalled $5.1 billion.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: [illegible]
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 10/12/1996

	PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
	259.500	205.000	ARAB BANK	13.9	[illegible]	24	7940	[illegible]	257.00	[illegible]	[illegible]
	4.750	4.250	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	[illegible]	3.83	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	3.800	2.400	BANK OF JORDAN	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-
	1.250	.880	MID.EAST INV.BK.	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	5.250	4.200	THE HOUSING BK.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1000	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	.880	JOR.GULF BANK	6.2	[illegible]	15	20576	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	4.180	3.450	JOR.ISLAMIC BANK	17.9	[illegible]	[illegible]	2435	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
S	3.290	1.400	UNION BK.SAV.INV.	P	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	3.800	3.000	JOR.INV.FIN.BANK	20.3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1.590	1.000	PHILADEL.INV.BK.	g	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 193.75	CHG: -1.15	74	54696	[illegible]			
▼	2.900	2.350	GENERAL ARAB INSUR.	73.2	[illegible]	[illegible]	350	[illegible]	2.35	[illegible]	[illegible]
	5.090	3.700	ALNISR AL-ARABI	[illegible]	4.30	4	149	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 118.13	CHG: +0.38	5	499	1528			
	1.900	1.450	JOR.ELECTRIC PWR.	11.5	7.23	17	3376	5602	1.67	[illegible]	.01-
	6.050	4.200	ARAB INTL.HOTELS	18.4	2.76	[illegible]	5000	23250	4.79	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1.960	1.330	NATL. PORTFOLIO	g	[illegible]	20	9665	11912	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1.050	[illegible]	REAL ESTATE INV.	19.5	4.24	5	905	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1.260	.580	JORDAN INTL.TRAD.	11.8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	10.310	7.400	ALBA'I	9.2	6.44	[illegible]	350	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	2.300	1.550	MID. EAST HOTELS	68.1	[illegible]	[illegible]	150	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	3.720	3.130	ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC.	13.8	5.71	2	200	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1.270	.960	ZARKA EDUCATION	g	0.62	[illegible]	7250	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	2.430	1.590	UNIFIED CO.	10.3	5.17	55	23100	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-
	1.200	.820	UNION LAND DEV.	E	[illegible]	[illegible]	500	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 112.65	CHG: -1.53	125	[illegible]	[illegible]			
	3.770	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	20.0	2.66	[illegible]	5236	[illegible]	3.54	3.50	.04-
	3.550	2.710	JOR.PHOSPHATE MINES	35.5	0.00	20	70003	231300	3.31	[illegible]	-
1	5.960	4.830	ARAB POTASH CO.	18.2	3.33	5	40900	245400	5.90	6.00	.20-
	10.550	8.720	JOR. PETROL.REFINARY	9.7	8.33	29	9823	94289	9.60	9.60	-
	7.300	7.000	JORDAN TANNING	7.5	5.14	3	251	1756	7.20	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1.590	1.150	WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	56.4	0.00	2	1000	1270	1.29	1.27	[illegible]
	3.750	1.450	INDUSTRIAL COMM.AGR.	34.8	0.00	10	1500	3775	2.47	[illegible]	.12-
	8.250	6.420	JOR.WORSTED MILLS	9.0	3.55	[illegible]	450	3173	7.05	7.0	-
	4.870	3.740	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	20.0	5.49	32	13465	49297	3.75	[illegible]	.11-
	6.450	5.650	JOR.CERAMIC IND.	7.7	4.03	[illegible]	200	1240	6.20	6.20	-
	2.600	2.050	JORDAN DAIRY	13.2	6.94	4	407	887	2.16	2.16	-
	2.400	1.570	JOR.PIPES MANFCT.	6.9	7.50	4	1000	1600	1.65	1.60	.05-
	8.000	4.250	DAR ALDAWA DV.INV.	13.5	4.07	3	500	2472	5.07	4.92	.15-
	5.800	3.130	ARAB ALUM.IND.	8.6	8.70	4	1100	3795	3.51	[illegible]	[illegible]
	.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	g	0.00	67	114050	72779	.66	[illegible]	.03-
	1.500	1.060	ARAB PAPER CONV.TRD.	7.8	9.01	4	1900	2204	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1.090	.540	NATIONAL INDS.	9.2	9.66	15	10900	6852	.65	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1.840	.930	INTERMED.PETRO.CHEM.	g	[illegible]	75	30900	35129	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	4.250	2.130	NATL.CABLE WIRE.MFAC	15.2	[illegible]	3	550	1378	2.55	[illegible]	.05-
	INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 117.96	CHG: -0.76	585	442632	973473			
	GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 153.88	CHG: -0.39	789	548925	3193282			

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 10/12/1996

	HIGH	LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
	.790	.440	CENTRAL GEN.STORAGE	21.3	0.00	3	1450	781	.55	.53	.02-
	.800	.510	JOR.TRADE FAC.	14.7	0.00	[illegible]	2000	1100	.55	.55	.03-
N	.950	.440	NATL.COMMER.CENTERS	E	0.00	12	11750	6098	.54	.52	.02-
N	1.500	[illegible]	ZARA FOR INVESTMENT	27.7	0.00	[illegible]	125000	175000	1.40	1.40	-
	.930	[illegible]	UNION INV. SO.	69.8	0.00	37	209650	47990	.76	.73	.02-
	1.110	[illegible]	ARAB FIN.INVEST.	g	0.00	69	133353	63713	[illegible]	[illegible]	.02-
	.860	.510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	E	0.00	5	1200	799	.69	.66	.03-
	1.760	1.400	NATL. CHLORINE	E	0.00	2	300	429	1.46	1.43	.03-
	.700	.450	ARAB INTL.INV.TRD.	g	0.00	4	5850	2867	.52	.49	.03-
	1.000	[illegible]	NATL. TEXTILE	g	0.00	12	12900	7879	.64	.62	.02-
	1.100	.400	NATL.MULT.ENG.NAMICO	E	0.00	29	42600	23133	.57	.54	.03-
	.810	[illegible]	NAYZAK DIES & MOULDS	E	0.00	11	16400	8892	.57	.54	.03-
	1.080	.720	JORDAN STEEL	E	0.00	4	3250	2535	[illegible]	[illegible]	.02-
	.780	.430	ARAB ELECT.INDS.	P	0.00	1	800	400	.50	.50	-
	1.130	1.020	UNION TOBACCO [illegible]	E	0.00	2	350	296	1.08	1.06	.02-
	.840	.570	RAZI PHA[illegible]	E	0.00	4	4000	1130	.64	.63	.01-
	.830	.390	INDS. ENG.	27.1	0.00	19	19000	8411	.46	.44	.02-
	1.430	.760	INDS. CERAMIC	E	0.00	9	4150	3496	.85	.84	.01-
	.630	.360	I.TEXTILE MANUF.	g	0.00	2	500	220	.42	.44	.02-
N	1.500	.530	MID.EAST COMPLEX	8.2	0.00	20	19600	13574	.70	.70	-
	GRAND TOTAL					245	613150	368733			

! : New 12 months high
▼ : New 12 months low
S : Stock dividend during the past 12 months
N : Listed during the past 12 months
P : P/E ratio is 100 or more
g : Negative P/E
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

EXCELLENT CONDITION #1, USED & STORE RETURN
SHOES/CLOTHES/RAGS
OVERSEAS IMPORT/EXPORT INC.
AN AMERICAN COMPANY SEEKING BUYER OR DISTRIBUTOR
AZIZ MP MOMIN OR AMIRALI MOMIN
9135 WALLISVILLE#B
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 U.S.A
PHONE: 713-672-6611 OR FAX: 713-672-6622

THE BETTER HALF® By Glasbergen

"My advice to politicians—if you want to get elected, don't promise me lower taxes. Promise me thinner thighs."

Jordan Times
Tel:
684311-699634

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

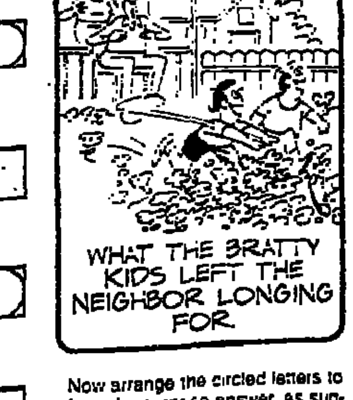
ELVRO

ESTAC

NUTBOT

PELONY

©1996 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved



WHAT THE BRATTY KIDS LEFT THE NEIGHBOR LONGING FOR.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here :

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ICILY UNCLE PUSHER TRIBAL
Answer: Garbage collection starts here – CITY HAUL

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE

DAJANI JEWELLERS
World gems, hand made in Jordan in 18 & 21 k. gold.
A truly unique shop.
Outstanding designs.
Amra Hotel Shops 6th Circle, Amman Also in Brazil

FOR RENT
- 3 bedrooms apartment in Shmeisani, second floor, 220 sq.m.
- 3 bedrooms in Al Rabia area, third floor, 190 sq.m.
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605 - 810609
Fax: 810520

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-
* JUMBO photo size 30% larger
* Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm
Shmeisani – Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swefieh tel: 823891

-CLEANING SERVICES HOME, OFFICES, PUBLIC PLACES
-MAINTENANCE SERVICES HEATING SYSTEMS& PLUMBING
-FOR RENT: DELUXE VILLAS AND FLATS (FURNISHED& UNFURNISHED
BYRIDS
TEL 829882-829883

SECURITY HOSPITALITY GASTRONOMY
New Low Season Rates...Fax 863051
HOTEL Turino
863944 Sweifiyeh

SANABEL REAL ESTATE
FOR RENT
Deluxe Villas & Appartments in Amman
For details please call
Tel . 864230
Fax. 864231

Japanese Restaurant
Teppanyaki
Sashimi
Sushi
For Res. 812997 - 814118 Mecca St. Daoud Center

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times Call tel:
667171 ext. 223

CROWN HOTEL
- INDOOR HEATED SWIMMING POOL
- SAUNA, JACUZZI & MASSAGE
- FITNESS ROOM
- TENNIS & SQUASH COURTS
TEL: 758180
Radio & TV Station Rd.

FOR RENT
DELUXE VILLAS AND APARTMENTS FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED
JAMAL REAL ESTATE
TEL :699369
FAX : 704414

Happy Days
Patisserie
Soups & Salads Café
OPEN DAILY FROM 10 A.M - 1 A.M
Tel. 5537199
Fax 898537
Umm Uthaina behind San Rock Hotel

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times Call tel:
667171 ext. 223

PIZZA GRANDE
The Real Italian Taste
Gourmet PIZZA.
We use the very best ingredients
Try the only STUFFED PIZZA in Town (Chicago Style)
PAN PIZZA (Thin or Thick Crust)
ITALIAN SANDWICHES
The Indoor Terrace By The Main Entrance
Alahlia – Abela Superstore
Tel. 688 471 Ext. 32

Zamalek face Nigeria's Stars in African club competition finale

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The showpiece of African club football reaches a fitting finale in Cairo this weekend when Shooting Stars defend a one-goal lead over Zamalek.

Champions Cup Winners a record-equalling three times, the Egyptians snatched a late goal when losing 2-1 in Nigeria last month and remain favourites for the title.

While some deciders this decade have not captured the imagination, this is a showdown befitting the occasion with the long rivalry between north and west Africa adding spice.

Whoever succeeds before an expected capacity 120,000 crowd in the nasser stadium on Friday afternoon can claim to be the greatest club in African football history.

Zamalek head the Champions Cup roll of honour with Canon Yaounde of Cameroon and Hafia of Guinea and another success would place them in pole position.

Stars, beaten 3-0 on aggregate by the Egyptians in the final 12 years ago, lifted the 1976 Cup-Winners Cup and the 1992 CAF Cup and success in Cairo would complete a 'grand slam'.

Although lacking the international stars of their rivals, the Nigerians dominated long periods of the first leg and it was a bitter blow when Mustapha Tarek struck 120 seconds before the final whistle.

With away goals counting double when teams finish level on aggregate, a 1-0 victory for Zamalek would suffice to return the trophy to Cairo following a two-year absence.

The Nigerians included psychology, prayers and superstition in their build-up to the first encounter, but bravery will be a much needed commodity in the intimidating Cairo cauldron.

A packed Nasser Stadium is no place for faint hearts and if the Nigerians concede an early goal they could be overrun like Sodigraf, a Zairean club who conceded four at the venue last week.

Zamalek boast a magnificent Champions Cup home record of 27 victories and two draws and a 71-11 goal tally with just three goals being conceded in the last 12 fixtures.

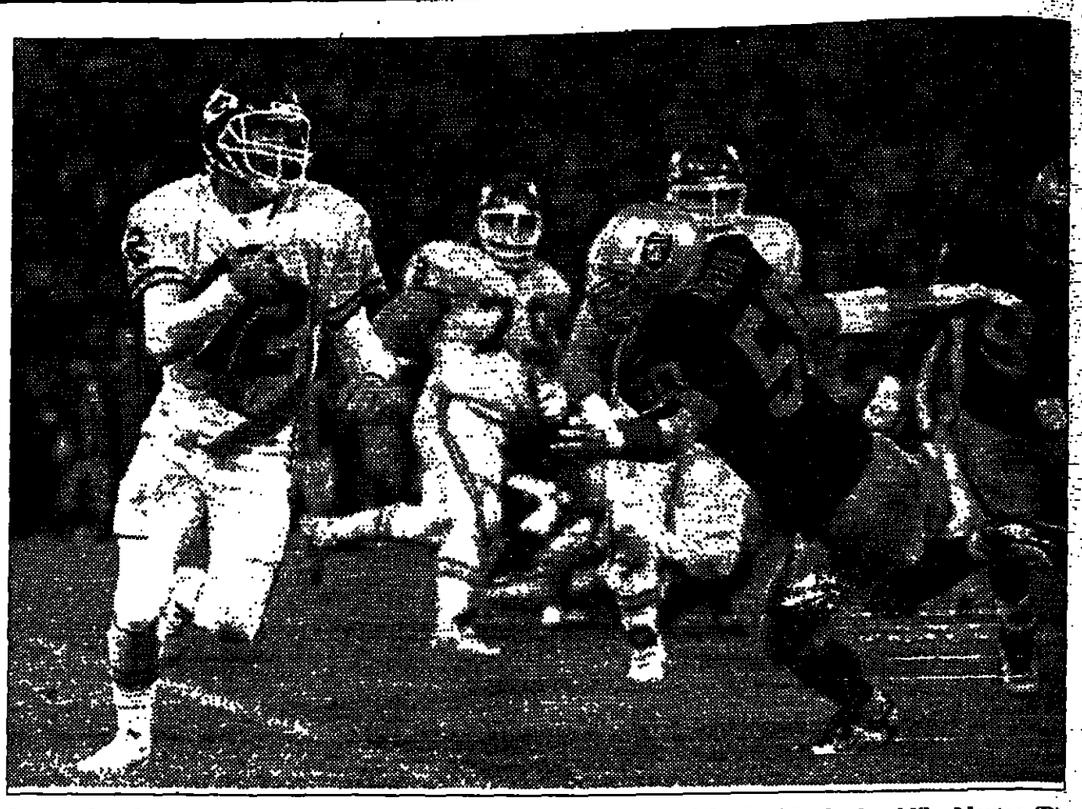
Stars have never won away, drawing twice and losing nine times while scoring a meagre five goals and conceding 22, including two on the previous visit to Cairo.

It can only heighten anxiety in Stars' camp that no Nigerian champions have escaped defeat in the land of the pharaohs with Enugu Rangers and stationery stores the other victims.

Ahmed Al-Kass, labelled the Maradona of the Nile, is a key figure in the Zamalek line-up, both as a midfield general and for his ability to 'ghost' into scoring positions.

He is surrounded by Egyptian national players, including goalkeeper Nader Al-Sayed, defender Medhat Abdel Hadi, midfielder Ismail Youssef and forward Ayman Mansour.

Only stars midfielder Sam Pam has worn the green and white of Nigeria, but Abiodun Baruwa is an impressive goalkeeper and Ajibade Babalade the defensive anchor in a team lacking injured leading scorer Kalu Umar.



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Rich Gannon (L) tries to evade Oakland Raiders' linebacker Mike Morton (R) during the first quarter of their game in Oakland. Oakland defeated Kansas City 26-7 (Reuters photo)

Marlins sign Fernandez for reported $35 million

MIAMI (R) — Right-hander Alex Fernandez, granted his free agency by baseball's new collective bargaining agreement, signed a five-year deal with the Florida Marlins on Monday believed to be worth about $35 million.

The 27-year-old Chicago White Sox starter was declared a free agent when the players were granted free service time for the baseball strike in the newly-ratified collective bargaining agreement.

Chicago offered Fernandez a six-year contract worth $30 million the day before the players association ratified the new agreement in an effort to retain their top starter, but Fernandez elected to test the free agent waters.

John Smoltz, who signed a four-year contract worth $31 million with the Atlanta Braves last month, is baseball's highest-paid pitcher at an average of $7.75 million a year.

The Marlins had always been considered the front-runner in the chase for Fernandez, who attended the University of Miami and is a south Florida native.

Fernandez was 16-10 with a 3.45 era and six complete games in 35 starts last season for the White Sox. He pitched 258 innings, second only to Toronto's Pat Hentgen in the American League, and struck out 200.

Drafted with the fourth overall pick in the 1990 draft, Fernandez compiled a 79-63 record in seven seasons with the White Sox. He was 57-34 record with a 3.52 era over the past four seasons and enjoyed his best season in 1993 when he went 18-9 with a 3.13 era in 34 starts.

Fernandez is the fourth free agent signing by the Marlins in the off-season. Florida signed Bobby Bonilla to a four-year, $23 million contract last month and also signed outfielders Jim Eisenreich and John Cangelosi as free agents.

Fernandez strengthens a Florida rotation that includes Kevin Brown and Al Leiter. Brown led all Major League starters with a 1.89 era last season.

Sugar Ray Leonard comeback fight to go ahead

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Sugar Ray Leonard's scheduled comeback fight against Hector "Macho" Camacho is definitely on despite reports that it was in jeopardy because of the promoter's suspected ties to organized crime.

Mike Acri, Camacho's promoter, said that the fight would definitely go ahead in either San Antonio in Texas or Las Vegas in Nevada — because of fears that the fight would be banned in New Jersey owing to the allegations made against the promoters.

Leonard, 40, is scheduled to fight Camacho on February 28, but the New Jersey casino control commission was being asked to ban the promoters, New Contenders Inc. of New York.

New Contenders chairman Michael Blutrich is also a lawyer for Scores, a topless dance club in New York which was raided last month by federal agents investigating a link with the Gambino crime family, USA Today newspaper reported.

New Contenders have promoted six previous fights in New Jersey, but the state prosecutor Rick

The fight is supposed to be Leonard's first since February 1991, when he lost to fellow American Terry Norris.

Before retiring from the ring, Leonard amassed a record of 36-2-1 with 25 knockouts. He won world titles in five categories and was an Olympic gold medallist in 1976.

Camacho (63-3-1, with 31 knockouts), is a five time world champion, who has stayed active in recent years with 10 fights in 1995 and five this year.

Raiders dominate Chiefs to keep playoff hopes alive

OAKLAND (R) — Jeff Hostetler threw three touchdown passes as the Oakland Raiders totally dominated Kansas City 26-7 on Monday to keep the Chiefs from clinching a playoff berth.

Hostetler completed 13-of-27 passes for 150 yards as the Raiders won their third straight game to improve to 7-7 and keep their own slim playoff hopes alive.

Hostetler connected with Andrew Glover from one yard out in the first quarter and in the third quarter hooked up with Derrick Fenner on a 23-yard touchdown pass and Tim Brown on a 34-yard scoring play.

But it was the Raiders defence that kept the Chiefs in apparent disarray all night, holding Kansas City to just 71 yards rushing and 169 yards of total offence. Napoleon Kaufman rushed for 109 yards on eight carries for Oakland, including a 45-yard run to the Kansas City one that set up the first touchdown. It was Kaufman's second 100-yard effort in three weeks.

The Raiders also got a 43-yard first-quarter field goal from Cole Ford and a safety in the third quarter to build a commanding 26-0.

Kansas City quarterback Rich Gannon was just 12-of-33 for 88 yards as the Chiefs fell to 9-5.

The Chiefs avoided a shutout when Gannon hit Sean Lachapelle in the end zone on a 12-yard scoring pass early in the fourth quarter.

Kansas City now has to wait until next week when it hosts Indianapolis to lock up a playoff berth and will need to win both of its last two games to ensure home field advantage in the wild card round.

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Y-New England	10	4	0	389	279
Buffalo	9	5	0	285	241
Indianapolis	8	6	0	269	284
Miami	6	8	0	292	283
NY Jets	1	13	0	231	402

Central Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
X-Pitsburgh	10	4	0	315	214
Houston	7	7	0	308	277
Jacksonville	7	7	0	286	305
Cincinnati	6	8	0	320	332
Baltimore	4	10	0	334	390

Western Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
X-Denver	12	2	0	357	240
Kansas City	9	5	0	269	256
San Diego	7	7	0	280	339
Oakland	7	7	0	300	241
Seattle	6	8	0	276	335

National Football Conference

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Dallas	9	5	0	264	207
Philadelphia	8	6	0	313	302
Washington	8	6	0	301	275
Arizona	6	8	0	254	342
NY Giants	6	8	0	217	257

Central Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
X-Green Bay	11	3	0	387	197
Minnesota	8	6	0	267	267
Chicago	6	8	0	237	257
Detroit	5	9	0	285	313
Tampa Bay	5	9	0	177	253

Western Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Y-Carolina	10	4	0	322	188
Y-San Francisco	10	4	0	349	228
St. Louis	4	10	0	255	369
Atlanta	3	11	0	265	408
New Orleans	2	12	0	199	322

X— clinched division title
Y— clinched playoff berth

Becker replaces Agassi in Kooyong Classic

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Reigning Grand Slam Cup champion Boris Becker has replaced American Andre Agassi in next month's Kooyong tennis classic here.

The German, who won the Australian open last January, joins an eight-man field which includes Pete Sampras, Jim Courier, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Michael Chang. The last place in the field will be taken by either Thomas Muster or Michael Stich.

The classic will be played from January 8 to 11 with the Australian Open starting two days later. Agassi last week pulled out of the Australian open citing tiredness.

Becker beat Croatian Goran Ivanisevic in straight sets to win $1.65 million in the Grand Slam Cup in Munich on Sunday.

Andre Agassi

Wimbledon thrive as English giants continue to splutter

LONDON (R) — Manchester United gave away a 2-0 lead, Liverpool lost at Anfield and leaders Arsenal needed an injury-time equaliser to salvage a 2-2 home draw on another English Premier League weekend which refused to go to plan.

The only side in the leading cluster who kept to the script were Wimbledon, whose 3-1 victory at Sunderland was their 18th consecutive match without defeat.

It's been that sort of season in England so far. None of the big clubs have stamped their authority on the league table, the title favourites all appear reluctant to take up the pre-Christmas running and several of the leading pre-season candidates for relegation are thriving.

From Arsenal's Highbury in the south to Newcastle's St James' Park in the north, seemingly impregnable fortresses have been breached by the unlikeliest of conquerers.

It was not supposed to be like this. When the big English clubs haemorrhaged money in the summer, importing Italians, Brazilians and east Europeans by the truckload to bolster their squads, it seemed the Premier League was about to split in two, with a small group of rich teams racking up the points by dispatching their poorer rivals on a weekly basis.

But money has failed to talk as eloquently as expected and the 1996-97 title race promises to be among the most open for years.

No team has defied the big-spenders quite so spectacularly as Joe Kinnear's Wimbledon, who, on a shoestring budget and without an Italian or a Brazilian to their name, have motored to second in the table, ahead of Liverpool, Newcastle, Manchester United and Chelsea.

Wimbledon lost their first three matches of the season but have been unstoppable since then. Not only are they winning, but they are playing with a panache which they have never previously exhibited.

"I've been here seven years and it's taken me a long time to put this team together." Kinnear said. "It has seven homegrown players in it, it's the strongest squad I've ever had and it's shows you what can be achieved with hard work.

"If you start believing in your own publicity then there are teams in this league that will soon bring you back down to earth," he warned Wimbledon's more prestigious Premier League rivals.

"If we stay injury-free and we're in this position with six or seven games to go, then I would back us because I think we would be the hardest team to beat. But it's whether we can stay in this position until then." Wimbledon captain Vinnie Jones, the epitome of Wimbledon's notorious fighting spirit in the days when the dons were derided for their long-ball tactics and brutal tackling, is equally cautious.

"We would be crazy to think about winning the Premiership," Jones said after the win at sunderland. "Europe does appeal to us, but even that's a long way off. We're not even halfway through the season yet so it's not at the forefront of our minds."

But on present form, by the time Wimbledon meet Sunderland for the return fixture on the last day of the season in May, Jones and his team mates could have already booked their tickets to the continent.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

English League sponsors agree 200 per cent increase

LONDON (R) — The sponsors of English soccer's Premier League are to increase their cash input by 200 percent from next year. The league announced a new 36 million pounds ($59.3 million) four-year sponsorship deal with Brewers Bass Monday. League chief executive Rick Parry said: "We were indiscussion with several other companies and there could have been even more money on the table. "But the (20) clubs wanted continuity. It has been an excellent partnership (between bass and league) and the clubs were unanimous in voting for its extension."

Maradona's son starts football career

NAPLES (AFP) — Diego Armando Maradona Jnr, recognised by a court here as the son of the Argentine soccer star, will make his debut in a football tournament near here next Monday. The 10-year-old, whose mother Cristiana Sinagra had an affair with Maradona during his years at Napoli, will play in the under-12 "Christmas tournament" and will turn out in a number 10 shirt like his father.

TODAY AT

CINEMA PHILADELPHIA TEL: 684144
PHILADELPHIA 1
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Macaulay Culkin... in
GETTING EVEN WITH DAD
PHILADELPHIA 2
TWISTER
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA PLAZA TEL: 699238
SEAN CONNERY...in
THE ROCK
(IN DOLBY STEREO)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA CONCORD TEL: 677420
CONCORD "1"
INDEPENDENCE DAY
(IN DOLBY STEREO)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15,10:45
CONCORD "2"
Robert Redford & Michelle Pfeiffer ... in
UP CLOSE & PERSONAL
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Ammoun Theatre & Cinema
TEL: 618274 - 618275
Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled
Five-Star Government
Starring comedians:
Mahmoud Saimeh
& Hussein Tubeishat
play starts 8:30 p.m

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre
TEL: 625155
PRESENTS
THE SATIRICAL COMEDY
Arab Human Rights
at 8:30 p.m.
Theatre is closed Friday, Saturday & Sunday
For reservation please call
625155 - 640155

Manchester United to meet Spurs in F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — Holders Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, the two most successful clubs in the history of the F.A. Cup, will clash in the third round of this season's competition, following the draw made Monday.

United, looking to become the first club to play in four successive finals, overtook Tottenham's record of eight F.A. Cup final wins when they won the trophy for the ninth time by beating Liverpool last May. United will be at home in the tie played in the first weekend in January.

It will be the two clubs 13th meeting in the competition and their first since a third round tie in 1980 which Spurs won 1-0 in a replay at Old Trafford with an extra-time winner from Ossie Ardiles.

Spurs have won five of their previous matches, five have been drawn and United have won twice.

Last year's beaten finalists Liverpool should have no trouble getting through to the fourth round after being drawn at home to the winners of the replay between second division rivals Walsall and Burnley.

The only other clash between two Premier League teams pits league leaders Arsenal against Sunderland, who had two players sent off at Highbury in their league visit there at the end of September. They last met in the Cup six seasons ago, Arsenal winning 2-1 at Highbury.

A possible giant-killing could be on the cards at Highfield road where Premier League strugglers Coventry face non-league Woking, who have already beaten league clubs Millwall and Cambridge this season.

At the same stage in 1991, Woking went to West Bromwich Albion and won 4-2 and Coventry, who themselves lost to non-league side Sutton United in 1989, will be hoping history does not repeat itself.

England coach Glenn Hoddle and one of his predecessors, Bobby Robson, made the draw and picked one of their former clubs to play against each other, Hoddle's old club Chelsea being drawn at home to West Brom, where Robson played in the 1950s. Wimbledon, second in the Premier League, face a tricky task at second division Crewe, where former Wimbledon boss Dario Gradi has built a succession of promising young sides.

Middlesbrough, the only Premier League side never to have reached the Cup final, should keep their interest alive beyond the third round when they take on third division Chester City.

The matches are due to be played on the weekend of January 4-5.

Asian Cup

UAE stagger into quarters

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An unimpressive United Arab Emirates qualified for the Asian Cup quarter-finals when they beat Indonesia 2-0 in their final Group A match here on Tuesday.

Goals from Hassan Ahmed and Adnan Al Talyani ensured that it was the end of the adventure for Indonesia, who were playing in their first ever Asian Cup finals.

The UAE went on the attack from the kick-off and the Indonesia defence, missing regular goalkeeper Kurandi Sandi out with a broken nose and suspended full back Agung Setyabudi were clinging on for dear life.

But despite one brilliant diving save by reserve keeper Hendro Kartiko from a fierce shot from Al Talyani in the 7th minute the Indonesian defence finally cracked 11 minutes later.

From a long throw-in from the left, two back-headers from Adel Ahmed and Al Talyani found Ahmed lurking at the far post.

The 23-year-old midfielder made no mistake, crashing the ball past a helpless Kartiko.

It was exactly the start the UAE, who have so far failed to shine in the tournament, needed to settle their frayed nerves.

But they nearly threw away their one goal advantage only a minute later when the defence failed to pick up Widodo Putra who rose above them to head just over the bar in one of Indonesia's rare attacks.

With their confidence growing the UAE were desperately seeking a second to put the result firmly beyond doubt but the gutsy Indonesians refused to fold.

Three minutes after the restart Ronny Wabia shook off his defender and cut into the box. His first-time shot clipping the post with UAE keeper Muhsin Fairouz well beaten.

But it was only a question of when rather than if that the UAE would increase their lead.

The inevitable second goal came in the 65th minute after Kartiko failed to hold a cross from Zuhair Bkhait on the right.

As the ball ran free in the area, Al Talyani quickly pounced on it to make it two nil.

After that it could have been three or four as Indonesia faded but Al Talyani and Bkhait both missed chances where they managed to miss when it looked easier to score.

Indonesia nearly got a deserved consolation goal in the 75th minute when Francis Wenghen let fly. Fairouz did well to get down quickly and smother the ball.

But Indonesia coach Danurwindo refused to be disheartened that his team was out of the competition.

"We are just delighted to have made the final stages," he said.

Robinson expected to return to Spurs

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (R) — The San Antonio Spurs received some very welcome news Monday with the word that All-Star centre David Robinson had been cleared by doctors to play for the struggling club.

The 1994-1995 NBA Most Valuable Player and seven-time All-Star has missed the entire season with a lower back strain. He is expected to return to action Tuesday against Phoenix.

"David Robinson today received medical clearance to return to action," Spurs general manager Gregg Popovich said. "In consultation with the doctors, our staff and David, we've decided that David will play in tomorrow night's Suns-Spurs game."

With their leading scorer, rebounder and shot-blocker sidelined, the Spurs have posted a woeful 3-15 record, losing 10 of their last 11 games.

The Spurs, who finished first in the Midwest Division the past two seasons, have surpassed 100 points just three times without Robinson and were held below 80 points five times.

The former number one overall draft pick has experienced back pain for the last couple of years, but it had not kept him from playing until this season. He arrived at training camp this year with lingering pain and played just one of eight exhibition games.

The 31-year-old Robinson earlier this year was voted one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history. He averaged 25 points, 12.2 rebounds and 3.4 blocks per game last season.

Seattle Supersonics Gary Payton (R) drives to the basket around Philadelphia 76er Lucious Harris during the third quarter in Philadelphia. Seattle defeated Philadelphia 118-94. In the other match, the Hornets defeated Vancouver 107-91 (Reuters photo)

Premier League roundup

Standings remain unchanged as Qadissieh, Ramtha win again

By Aleen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Although standings remained unchanged following the conclusion of the 15th week of the Kingdom's Premier League soccer competition, some teams have made important strides towards improving their overall points by maintaining their form throughout the past two weeks.

Al Ramtha kept third place with a 2-1 win over Al Ahli Tuesday in the last of the week's matches. It was their second consecutive win after a surprising 2-1 defeat to Kufrsoum two weeks ago.

Al Wihdat remained atop the standings with a slim two-point lead after a 3-0 win over Qoqazi. They will next face Al Ramtha Friday in the most important of the 16th week's clashes.

Al Wihdat have maintained an unbeaten record throughout the second leg and have allowed only 6 goals to enter their nets.

Al Faisali closely trail the titleholders after a 3-2 win over Kufrsoum — their fourth consecutive victory. They next have a relatively easy match against bottom-placed Qoqazi.

Al Qadissieh were also an improved team this week as they beat Shabab Al Hussein 3-1 for only their second win in the last six matches. They are in 7th place before facing Al Ahli in their upcoming match.

Standings after 15th week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Wihdat	15	11	3	1	32	6	36
Faisali	15	10	4	1	28	12	34
Ramtha	15	8	4	3	22	13	28
Ahli	15	5	7	3	28	20	22
Hussein	15	5	6	4	20	19	21
Qadissieh	15	4	6	5	21	23	18
Jazireh	15	4	4	7	11	15	16
S. Hussein	15	2	4	9	20	29	10
Kufrsoum	15	1	6	8	14	31	9
Qoqazi	15	1	4	10	11	31	7

Al Hussein disappointed their fans again after losing 1-0 to Al Jazireh Monday. They are now fifth following their defeats to Al Faisali and Al Wihdat in the past two weeks.

Their only win in the second leg was 2-1 win over lowly Qoqazi, but they might have a chance to win again when they meet Shabab Al Hussein Friday.

Schedule (all matches start at 2:30 p.m.)

Thurs. 12/12	Qoqazi —Faisali	Amman
Friday 13/12	Jazireh —Kufrsoum	Mafraq
Friday 13/12	Ramtha — Wihdat	Irbid
Friday 13/12	Hussein — S. Hussein	Amman
Sat. 14/12	Qadissieh —Ahli	Amman

Beckenbauer offers Klinsmann olive branch

BONN (AFP) —. Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer Monday offered want-away striker Jurgen Klinsmann an olive branch saying internal disagreements threatened to cripple the club's title challenge.

"An explanation is inevitable," Beckenbauer said in his weekly column for mass circulation daily Bild. But he added: "We're coming up for Christmas and it's time for a moment's reflection. Let's talk, but in January, when everyone can have their say.

After that there can only be one objective — the championship."

On Saturday, Klinsmann's 100th goal in the Bundesliga against Borussia Moenchengladbach sent Bayern into the winter break as league leaders, but he then threatened to walk out, saying he was unhappy at the club and at the defensive tactics of Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

"If it goes on like this, I'm leaving," vowed the former Tottenham striker whose contract with Bayern runs until 1998, although a special clause allows him to leave at the end of this season.

"I have had to put up with a lot and I'm prepared to put up with a lot more to win the title. But when I have to carry the can every time anything goes wrong I have to ask myself whether I belong here," he snapped.

Beckenbauer, German soccer's elder statesman, said he could understood Klinsmann's frustration when strikers were judged by the goals they score and the German captain had notched just five this term.

But Bayern's general manager Uli Hoeness was less sympathetic.

In an interview with sports magazine Kicker, Hoeness said that "the coach always has the last word. That is our policy and no player can change it."

FBI offers reward for Olympic bomber

ATLANTA (R) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation pleaded for help Monday in solving the Olympic bombing, offering a reward of up to $500,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the bomber or bombers.

The FBI made public a recording of the telephone call made 22 minutes before the Olympic bombing and displayed a green military-style knapsack similar to the one that contained a bomb that weighed more than 40 lbs (18 kg).

"We firmly believe that somewhere, someone has a photograph of this person carrying this bomb into the park," FBI Deputy Director Weldon Kennedy said.

The bomb on July 27 at centennial Olympic park during the 1996 Olympic Games, killed two people and injured more than 100.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

©1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

SPOT THE LOSER

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 5 2
♡ K 5
◇ A J 10 8 5
♣ 6 4 3

WEST
♠ 6 4
♡ 10 7 6 4
◇ Q 6 4 2
♣ Q 10 2

EAST
♠ 10 9 3
♡ 8 3 2
◇ K 9 7
♣ K 9 7 5

SOUTH
♠ A K J 8 7
♡ A Q J 9
◇ 3
♣ A J 8

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	2◇	Pass
3♡	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4♡	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

On this deal from a major tournament, North-South bid and made six spades. Can you tell us which trick declarer lost to fulfill the slam?

North bid the hand intelligently to help South decide to contract for slam. When South started a cue-bidding sequence with four clubs, North chose to bypass the ace of diamonds in favor of showing the king of hearts. South expressed gratitude in a direct fashion.

West led a trump, and declarer could count only 11 tricks. Since there were no losers that could be ruffed in dummy, the only recourse left to declarer was to play along dummy-reversal lines. The first trick was won in hand, a diamond was led to the ace and a diamond was ruffed high in the closed hand. A heart to the king provided the entry for another diamond ruffed high, followed by a trump to the queen and another diamond ruff on which East discarded a heart. That left dummy with one trump and a long diamond, while East held a winning trump.

Declarer now started running hearts. East did as well as possible by ruffing the third heart as declarer discarded a club from the board, then switched to a club — but it was too late. Declarer stepped up with the ace, cashed the remaining heart to discard the last club from dummy, then scored the final two tricks with the table's trump and long diamond.

Did you work out that declarer's only loser would be a trump trick?

Furnished Apartment For Rent
Located in Shmeisani. Fully furnished penthouse deluxe roof with open terraces overlooking Amman. Consists of 3 bedrooms (one master), 3 bathrooms, large salons, modern kitchen, with central heating, telephone, lift, satellite, parking and fireplace.
Please call: 678501 after 2:00 p.m.

VILLA FOR RENT
Consisting of 2 floors, each floor has: 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with sitting area & fireplace, American kitchen, living and dining room, garage, garden & telephone. Located between 7th Circle and Mecca Str.
Tel: 830620, 833776

Villa for Rent in Abdoun
Quiet street close to Abdoun Circle;
600 sq. m. on 2 floors.
- 4 bedrooms; 2 bathrooms; 1 guest toilet.
- Large reception area; spacious family room; 2 fireplaces.
- Poggenpohl breakfast kitchen.
- 2 separate servants' room with 1 bathroom.
- Storage room.
- Gardener/driver quarters with bathroom.
- Telephone line.

Contact: REEM at 641959 (office hours)

TO LET
First floor flat, consisting of three bedrooms (one master), two bathrooms, kitchen plus kitchen corner, living & dining room at Um Uthaina, near Amra Hotel.
Contact Tel: 5513344
from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Season's Greetings
On the occasion of the beginning of the New Year 1997
Raed Optics
would like to invite you for it's best annual sales on all sunglasses from famous international name brands with price discounts.
We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Sweifieh, Jacob Moamar Str., Farid Alob Centre

Deluxe Furnished/Unfurnished Roof For Rent
3 bedrooms roof, 3 bathrooms, spacious terrace, nice view, deluxe furniture (optional), central heating & telephone, new building, Al-Rabiyaih area.
Annual Rent: (JD 8,000)
For more details please call 700774

Challenging career opportunity in Corporate Finance

Formed in 1980, Arab Insurance Group (ARIG) is now one of the most prestigious and well respected financial institutions in the Middle East.

We have set ourselves the goal of becoming the premier regional and international insurance organisation of the Arab world in terms of geographic coverage, range of products and services, financial strength, quality of resources and international recognition.

In line with this objective, we are currently pursuing a strategy which involves the expansion of our international reinsurance operations and also the diversification into new and complementary areas of insurance activity in the Arab world.

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter in English, quoting reference number 9638 to:
The Assistant Manager - Human Resources.

Assistant Manager - Budgetary Control & Accounting Ref 9638-N

The position

Reporting to the Corporate Financial Controller, you will be responsible for the planning, and coordination of business plans and budgets at the Group level. A key responsibility will be to analyse the financial performance of business units and report to management to enable effective and timely decision making.

You will also manage the Group's investment back office and ensure that financial activities are in compliance with applicable laws, the Company's articles of association and internal regulations.

The criteria

To qualify for this position, you will need an internationally recognised, professional accounting qualification and a minimum of 5 years relevant experience, preferably in the insurance or Reinsurance sector.

In addition you must have proven report writing and analytical skills and be experienced in a computerised environment. Excellent communication skills and the ability to plan and prioritise a heavy workload are also necessary for this position. The ability to speak Arabic will be an advantage.

ARIG
المجموعة العربية للتأمين ش.م.ب
Arab Insurance Group b.s.c.
P.O. Box 26992, Manama, Bahrain Fax: +973 531155

Islamic ministers lay out views on Muslim issues

JAKARTA (Agencies) — Islamic countries laid out their views on issues affecting the Muslim World on Tuesday at the annual foreign ministerial meeting of the 54-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Conference sources said one of the most contentious issues was likely to arise in the political affairs committee, with Kuwait expected to propose a resolution hostile to Iraq, which Baghdad would strongly oppose.

The conference was also expected to endorse a resolution condemning Aremenia for "aggression" against Azerbaijan and calling for the withdrawal of Armenian troops and the "liberation" of occupied Azerbaijani territory.

The five-day conference opened on Monday with an attack on Israel over what speakers said was its "reneging" on agreements with the Palestinians, and calls for Muslim unity and economic cooperation and development.

It is also seeking to dispel an image among some in the West equating Islam with violence and terrorism.

The conference's Cultural and Islamic Affairs Committee is studying resolutions that include ways to unify Muslims in the defence of Islamic values.

Ministers also met their counterparts for bilateral discussions on the sidelines of the conference.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas had a session on Tuesday with Afghanistan's Rahim Gafoorazai, who is deputy foreign minister in the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Mr. Rabbani was driven from Kabul in September by the purist Islamic Taleban militia, and is now allied with ethnic Uzbek leader Rashid Dostum in a bid to retake the capital.

The OIC has left Afghanistan's seat vacant while urging the warring Afghan parties to form a government of national unity.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) political department chief Farouk Kaddoumi called on OIC states to cease trade and economic dealings with Israel as part of measures to force Israeli compliance to a peace agreement.

Mr. Kaddoumi, speaking here at the OIC ministerial meeting also said it was equally important to convince the United States to bear pressure on Israel in order to abide by the basis upon which the peace process was started.

King visits COPEX

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday visited the Contingency and Procurement Exhibition (COPEX), which was opened on Monday by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, commander of the Special Forces.

The exhibition, which ended Tuesday, featured special equipment, surveillance devices, vehicles, and small arms for use by Special Forces.

The King was accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Abdul Karim Kabariti, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai.

King Hussein also visited an exhibition of military pictures and plates by Russian artist Dasha Zeitsiva, which was held at the Jordan River Design show hall.

King Hussein voiced admiration of the plates on display, saying that they reflect the reality. King Hussein was accompanied by Prince Abdullah and Prince Hamzeh and Mr. Kabariti.

King Hussein was received upon arrival at the show hall by Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Al Abdullah, chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan River Society for Development Projects and members of the board.

The exhibition includes three major parts: The first represents the Jordanian Armed Forces' training and manoeuvres. The second depicts the Jordanian Armed Forces' participation in the 1973 war in the Golan Heights. The third represents the evolution of the Jordanian Armed Forces' military uniform since the Great Arab Revolt.

His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday visits an exhibition of special equipment and light weapons for use by Special Forces (Armed Forces photo)

PNA rebuffs Israel over Hamas rally

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) rejected on Tuesday Israeli criticism of its decision to let the radical Islamic group Hamas hold a big rally in the Gaza Strip, telling Israel to worry about its own hardliners.

"This is internal Palestinian business and has nothing to do with Israel," Mohammad Dahlan, head of the Palestinian preventive security service in the Gaza Strip, told the Al Quds newspaper.

"It would be better for (Israel) to look at how appropriate it is to put up a memorial to the butcher Goldstein at the entrance to Kiryat Arba," he said, referring to Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein who shot and killed 30 Palestinian worshippers in a Hebron mosque in February 1994.

An elaborate gravesite built for Goldstein in the settlement of Kiryat Arba just outside Hebron has become a pilgrimage sight for Jewish extremists opposed to Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Dahlan was responding to reported Israeli anger over the decision to grant permission to the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to hold a major rally on Friday at the Khan Yunis refugee camp.

The rally is being organised to mark the ninth anniversary of Hamas' creation during the intifada uprising against Israeli rule and the first anniversary of the assassination by suspected Israeli agents of Yeahiya Ayash, the Hamas master bomb maker.

Israeli media quoted senior security officials as accusing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of permitting the rally as a veiled warning that Hamas could resume attacks against Israel if peace negotiations between the two sides remain frozen.

But Mr. Dahlan rejected this.

"The Palestinian side is committed to maintaining internal security and to all political and security agreements with Israel and it has respected them," he said.

"Violations (of peace agreements) have come only from the Israeli side in negotiations over Hebron and in the inhuman treatment by Israeli border guards of Palestinian workers and the residents of Hebron," he said.

The Palestinian autonomy process launched by the Oslo peace accords has been frozen since the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu came to power in June.

Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad movement carried out four suicide bombings in Israel in February and March which killed 58 people.

Hamas and Palestinian security forces subsequently arrested hundreds of activists, but most Hamas members detained by the PNA have since been released.

Yassin may be freed

Israeli and Palestinian security forces subsequently arrested hundreds of activists, but most hamas members detained by the PNA have since been released.

Israeli Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani recommended on Tuesday that the ailing spiritual leader of Hamas be freed from an Israeli jail.

Speaking during a visit to Sheikh Ahmad Yassin at a prison authority hospital here, Mr. Kahalani said "we must consider the release of Sheikh Yassin due to his poor state of health."

Sheikh Yassin, 62, was sentenced to life in prison in 1989 for alleged complicity in the slaying of two Israeli soldiers by Hamas, a movement he founded in 1987.

The cleric's health has deteriorated steadily in recent years and Israeli security officials have on several occasions expressed fears violence will erupt if he dies in prison. Israel's previous Labour government repeatedly said it was considering letting Sheikh Yassin go, but never acted.

Officials say Sheikh Yassin is partially paralysed, nearly blind and suffering from respiratory and other illnesses.

A spokesman for the prison authority said new measures had been ordered to improve the sheikh's prison conditions, notably easing restrictions on family visits and permitting him to hold Friday prayers with fellow inmates.

Mr. Arafat regularly demands that Sheikh Yassin be released so as to facilitate a reconciliation between his self-rule authority and Hamas, which remains virulently opposed to his peace agreements with Israel.

Sheikh Yassin has given a number of interviews in recent months to Israeli television and radio during which he has voiced support for the peace process and for an end to armed struggle against Israel.

But Hamas leaders have said statements made by the cleric while still in jail cannot be considered credible.

Israel forcing Palestinians to renounce U.S. citizenship in return for Jerusalem identity cards, consul reports

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel is attempting to force Palestinians with U.S. passports to surrender American citizenship by blackmailing them over residency in annexed east Jerusalem, the U.S. consul general to Jerusalem said Tuesday.

"It appears the Israeli interior minister is using procedures to force Palestinians to give up United States citizenship in order to renew their Jerusalem residency," Edward Abington said. "We consider this an attempt to force U.S. citizens to renounce their citizenship under duress," Mr. Abington said. "we have complained to the ministry about this but it has said there is no new policy in force."

The consul general said over 60 Palestinians with U.S. passports had complained to the consulate that they "had been told by the ministry that they must go to the American consulate and renounce their citizenship" in order to receive the valued Jerusalem identity card.

"Other nations' consulates have reported similar cases," he added.

Palestinians must carry identity papers with a Jerusalem residency in order to enter the city.

Palestinians with U.S. "green cards" have also been told to surrender them before receiving Israeli laissez-passer documents to allow them to travel, Mr. Abington said.

"This has caused great hardship. There have been cases of Palestinians with sick relatives in the United States who have been unable to visit them for fear of losing residence in their city of birth," he said.

The U.S. consulate put out notices in Palestinian newspapers on Tuesday advising Jerusalem residents that "it is impossible for a U.S. citizen to lose U.S. citizenship under duress" even if forced to surrender his passport.

"There are hundreds of thousands of Israeli-Americans who are allowed to maintain their dual citizenship, but Palestinians are being forced to give up their citizenship," Mr. Abington said.

Kabariti assures Maan of development efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Tuesday met a delegation from Maan Governorate and announced that the government was exerting all possible efforts to address problems facing the southern governorate.

Addressing the delegation at the Al Hussein Youth City after listening to the governorate's demands presented by Maan Deputy Tawfiq Kreishan, Mr. Kabariti explained the government's plans for implementing projects in industry, health, education, investments and land distribution.

Mr. Kabariti said the government had made plans to start work on building a fully integrated industrial city by the end of 1997. Funds have been earmarked for the vital project, he said.

It has been decided that work should start by early 1997 at an industrial city in Karak, he added.

"The government will introduce amendments to the Investments Promotion Law with a view to including more incentives that can attract investors to the industrial cities in Maan and Karak," Mr. Kabariti said.

Referring to Maan's demands for improvements in the health sector, Mr. Kabariti said that the government was working on supplying the local hospital with more equipment and promoting health services for the governorate. He said that Maan hospital will have sufficient qualified cadres and additional dialysis units by next month.

With regard to higher education, he said that His Royal Highness Prince Zeid Ben Shaker has provided funds for the establishment of a branch for the Karak-based Muta University in Maan.

"We will work with His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi, His Majesty King Hussein's cultural secretary, to assign seats for Maan students in various universities," the prime minister added.

"The government is keen on creating housing estates for the workers in the phosphate company near Maan and I will follow up on this question personally to ensure that the needs are met," he said.

He called for the creation of a committee of notables well-acquainted with tribal affairs to work with the government on the distribution of lands in the governorate and to solve issues pertaining to land ownership.

Deputy Kreishan also demanded that citizens from Maan Governorate be employed in local firms like the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Jordan Cement Factories Company.

Bahrain-Qatar row turns into strong war of words

MANAMA (AP) — A territorial dispute between Bahrain and Qatar has taken an ugly turn with the use of public insults — "blabbermouth," for one — unusual in the reserved Gulf Arab states.

Bahrain boycotted a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit that ended Monday in Qatar because of an ongoing quarrel over a chain of islands, water boundaries and a strip of land in Qatar where the Bahraini ruling family's ancestors lived 200 years ago.

On Tuesday, a government-guided newspaper called Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Ben Jabr Al Thani, "the blabbermouth and the trickster of Qatar" in a front-page headline.

The newspaper editorial was in reaction to the minister's Monday accusation that Manama played a major role in plotting a coup attempt uncovered in Qatar last February.

The newspaper's cartoon, printed in colour, showed the minister wearing a hat over his traditional white headdress, with a rabbit peering from one side of it. The text said Sheikh Hamad did not sound "like a minister, or even like a statesman."

"All he needed was the gear of a trickster: a stick, a hat and pigeons," the editorial said.

The Gulf states are generally united by tradition and mutual interests, and do not often let whatever disputes they have spill over into public.

At a news conference after the Gulf summit closed, Sheikh Hamad said Bahrainis smuggled weapons and explosives to Qatar during the coup. "I have the evidence and the witnesses. The people are in jail here and will be put on trial in due time," he said.

"They (Bahrain) were at the centre of the plot. They set up a centre of operations directed by the crown prince, and gave Bahraini passports to the plotters" who later fled Qatar, said the Foreign Minister.

Bahraini Information Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Al Mutawa immediately denied the charges and condemned the Qatari attack.

"The fact that the foreign minister of the country which is holding the GCC's rotating presidency takes advantage of the summit to launch provocations sets a dangerous precedent," he said.

Sheikh Hamad also turned on his Bahraini counterpart, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa, saying that he "spends his time drawing up communiques" against Qatar instead of "looking after of the interests of his people."

Hitting back, Al Ayyam warned that the Qatari foreign minister's tirade amounted to "a provocation against all GCC countries and a dangerous turning-point ... which could threaten the future of the council."

GCC leaders at the summit agreed to form a committee comprising all the members excluding Bahrain and Qatar to resolve the border dispute.

COLUMN

Gielgud honoured

LONDON (AP) — Actor Sir John Gielgud on Monday was appointed a member of the Order of Merit, conferred by Queen Elizabeth II. She chose the 92-year-old Oscar-winner and British theater legend to fill the vacancy left by the death in August of Sir Frank Whittle, the British jet engine pioneer. The Order of Merit, restricted to 24 people at any one time, was launched in 1902 by the queen's great-grandfather, King Edward VII. It pays tribute to those who "have rendered exceptionally meritorious service ... towards the advancement of the arts, learning, literature, and science," a Buckingham Palace statement said. Gielgud, who was knighted in 1953, can currently be seen as a piano teacher in Scott Hicks' film, "Shine." The only other actor to receive the Order of Merit was Laurence Olivier, who died in 1989.

Ferguson may host talk show

LONDON (AP) — The duchess of York flew to the United States on Monday and news reports said she was meeting TV executives to try to make a deal to host a talk show. The former Sarah Ferguson, 37, left London's Heathrow Airport alone aboard a British Airways flight bound for Montreal, Canada. Reporters at the airport said she would fly from there to Los Angeles. The free-spending ex-wife of Prince Andrew, popularly known as Fergie, attracted huge publicity promoting her autobiography in Britain and the United States last month. An appearance on the popular "Late Show" with David Letterman led to TV offers, British news reports said. The duchess's American spokesman, Howard Rubenstein, has confirmed she is looking at offers to host her own show in 1997.

New Year revellers denied bikinis

JAKARTA (R) — Officials in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta have deemed the bikini inappropriate attire for foreign performers hired to entertain new years revellers, the Pos Kota daily reported. The newspaper, whose daily diet of crime and sex reporting makes its one of the capital's most popular, quoted officials as saying the bikini was not compatiable with the local culture in the world's most populous Muslim country. "We will bring down any foreign artist who wears a bikini on stage," Sofiah S., head supervisor of foreign artists in the socio-political directorate at city hall, was quoted as saying. Sofiah said city officials, who are empowered to control entertainment under a 1992 governor's regulation, would also crack down on erotic dancing over the holiday period, which runs into the Holy Month of Ramadan early next year.

Man bites off another's nose

LOS ANGELES (R) — A brawl on a holiday cruise ship turned vicious, leaving one man without a nose and other men held on suspicion of biting it off. Coast guard officials said they responded to the emergency after receiving a call from the doctor on the ship, which was sailing off the coast of San Diego. "He said he had a patient on board whose nose had been amputated by a human bite," coast guard spokeswoman Jamie Devitt said. The patient, 28-year-old Scott Irvine of Long Beach, California, was rushed to a hospital where he underwent surgery to

Partnership with EU will be signed in early 1997 despite snags, officials say

By Ghalia Alul and Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian and European officials are confident that the long awaited partnership agreement between Jordan and the European Union (EU) will be signed in early 1997 despite differences on several issues.

The signing of the partnership has been postponed since August. However, it appears that negotiators are optimistic that Jordan and the EU will soon come to an understanding over outstanding points.

Foremost among the Jordanian concerns is its ability to have larger access to EU markets for its agricultural products.

Ministry of Planning Secretary General Nabil Ammari said that the EU "is offering (Jordan) what we call a tariff quota" that defines the volume of any product that would carry zero tariff in EU countries.

Tariffs will be imposed on the volume of exports beyond the quotas.

Dr. Ammari said that the Kingdom was seeking to increase the quotas and to expand the variety of produce that can be exported under the agreement. Jordanian agricultural exports to European countries include tomato paste, grapes, citrus, vegetables and beans.

"We feel that we should be able to increase the volume of products which we are exporting," said Dr. Ammari. "We are also entering new areas, so we asked to be able to export new products into the agreement."

However, EU members, particularly from southern Europe to whom Jordan would pose strong competition, have resisted the proposal.

Europeans demand that Jordan determine the kind and quantity of agricultural products it aims to export to Europe as well as specify the calendar.

"Jordan has to determine what it is producing, what is likely to be produced and when," said the head of the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Jordan, Yves Gazzo.

However, increasing the exports and expanding the calendar of Jordanian agricultural products would be soundly rejected by EU farmers.

Jordan has also objected to new cumulative rules of origin requirements from the EU which essentially aspire to force a free-trade area in the region.

The EU is now demanding that the 12 expected Mediterranean partners complete free trade agreements among themselves in order to benefit from cumulative rules of origin.

Mr. Gazzo said the EU intends to put countries of the Mediterranean region in a standard level of protection and eliminate trade barriers between them as well as provide free access to EU markets.

Israel, Tunisia and Morocco have concluded partnership agreements with the EU. Agreements are currently being negotiated with Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, the Palestine National Authority (PNA), and exploratory talks are underway with Syria.

Jordan has signed a free-trade agreement with Egypt this year, and has attempted to sign a similar one with Tunisia. Free-trade between Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority has been delayed due to the stalemate in the peace process which dampened Jordan's enthusiasm to sign a similar deal with Israel.

"This is a political issue," said Dr. Ammari. "Eventually we will move in the right direction but it depends on how things go on in the Israeli-Palestinian track, on the Israeli-Syrian front and also in the implementation of trade agreements that Jordan signed with Israel."

Dr. Ammari said that non-EU members had objected to the free-trade area condition and Jordan was asking that it be applied to countries which had not so far reached a partnership agreement with the EU.

Mr. Gazzo said, however, that greater flow of goods will prompt Jordan to increase its output as well as its exports.

Under cumulative rules of origin, Jordan can add any inputs imported from Europe and re-export the product to Europe as one originating in Jordan.

However, European businesses will make the greatest benefit from cumulative rules of origin until a free-trade area exists in the region. "To benefit, you have to have free trade between non-members as well," said Dr Ammari.

Dr. Ammari said that the EU and all its members are meeting at a technical level to reach an agreement satisfactory to all parties.

Another contentious issue is the intellectual property

(Cotinued on page 7)